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Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Dialogue Suspension

NC2806114490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jun (MENA)—In a statement to reporters after inaugurating an Olympic sports complex today, President Mubarak declared that he held contacts with the U.S. Administration from the first moment he felt there was pressure on it to sever the dialogue with the PLO for good. He added: In fact, before talking about the ongoing contacts with the U.S. Administration, I would like to talk about the situation in general. Following the operation that took place on the Israeli coast, we feared that this might create unfavorable results, so we held consultations with various parties. I contacted U.S. President Bush immediately after this, then sent him a message explaining our views and pointing out what could result from severing the dialogue for good in terms of weakening the moderates in the region and strengthening extremism.

President Mubarak added: In fact, the U.S. President took notice of the message, and it took him quite some time to reach his decision. I do not wish to go into the details of his decision. At any rate, he decided to suspend the dialogue.

The president added: The truth is we did not want the dialogue suspended or anything of this kind. We wanted the dialogue to continue. We raised the issue of dialogue with the United States during the term of former President Reagan, when Shultz was secretary of state. In 1986 there was a heated discussion of this issue with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz and there was a complete refusal to hold a dialogue with the PLO. But toward the end of 1988, we managed to get a dialogue started between the United States and the PLO. Naturally, this dialogue did not please the Israelis.

President Mubarak said: We have exerted efforts to find a way or a channel through which the Palestinian people can express their view to the Unites States and get each side to understand the position of the other. He added: In fact, the suspension of the dialogue has somewhat frozen the situation. There has been contact between President Bush and me on this matter.

President Mubarak stressed that the present U.S. Administration is one of the best, regardless of any criticism that may be made of this assertion. I am saying this for the sake of truth, and if there is something wrong with the administration I would have said it. But I am only telling the truth. He added that the present U.S. Administration is an understanding one. The present U.S. President understands the Middle East problem, he stated, as in the past he occupied many positions which make him knowledgeable about events. Secretary of State James Baker is an excellent man and has a broad perspective on the various issues in our area. We must benefit from this stand to achieve peace in the region.

President Mubarak went on to say: Following my recent contact with the U.S. President, I promised him to search for ways to cancel the suspension of the dialogue. We discussed a number of ideas and I agreed with the U.S. President in that recent contact to send Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to visit Washington to discuss with him ways of overcoming the "suspension of dialogue" phrase. He added that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid spent a long time with the U.S. President and met with the secretary of state yesterday.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that we will reach a good position on the resumption of the dialogue because this would enable the parties to be in touch with each other and therefore get to understand each other. He then asked: If I cannot understand you or you me, how can I help you? He added: For you to understand my position and the pressures I am under and for me to understand your position and the pressures you are under, we must be in touch so as to help each other.

Replying to a question on his views following the opening of the Olympic sports complex, the president said: My view is the same as yours and every spectator. This complex has been built so that our national teams can benefit from its facilities and there is much hope that it will help improve sports performances.

'Abd-al-Majid on Efforts To Restore Dialogue

NC2906144390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Egypt and the United States have agreed to continue efforts to start a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. This agreement, he said, is part Egypt's efforts to resume the dialogue between the PLO and the United States. In an interview published in today's issue of the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid said that Egypt will continue these efforts in coordination with the PLO, until the desired result is achieved.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that he briefed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of his recent talks with U.S. President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker in Washington. He said the talks dealt with the resumption of dialogue between the United States and the PLO as well as with ways to revive the peace process which had come to a standstill because of Israel's refusal of the Baker plan.

Mubarak Speaks With Zambia's Kaunda

NC3006125190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today held a telephone conversation with Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda. The two leaders exchanged views on a number of African issues.

The telephone call followed reports by some news agencies about a failed coup attempt that took place in Zambia today.

Libya

Al-Talhi Says Israel Plans 'Aggression'

LD3006100390 Kuwait KUNA in English 0907 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 30 (KUNA)—Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi was quoted as saying Saturday that Israel is fabricating pretexts to launch [word indistinct] ranging aggression on Libya, but emphasized that his country has taken all needed precautions to answer back the expected aggression.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD newspaper, Talhi denied Israeli allegations that Libya is involved in the Palestinian sea-borne operations against Israel late last month.

He stressed that "though we support the Palestinian revolution, we had nothing to do with that operation which Israel is trying to use as a pretext to launch an aggression on Libya."

He also said the U.S. Administration is preparing to [word indistinct] an aggression on Libya for the alleged production of chemical weapons by Tripoli, but he reiterated his country's call for a comprehensive inspection on chemical weapons in the region adding "we are seeking to reach an international agreement to ban using and stockpiling these kinds of arms."

Answering a question on the Egyptian and Moroccan mediation efforts to improve Libyan-U.S. relations, the Libyan minister said this mediation has been fruitless till now, and attributed lack of progress to "American allegations about issues relating to terrorism."

Talhi expressed his country's deep regret for the U.S. decision to suspend the U.S.-PLO dialogue and held Washington responsible for the failure of the dialogue.

JANA Denies UK TV Report on Semtex Use

LD0107163990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Tripoli 1 Jul (JANA)—British commercial television has shown a special program on the Semtex explosives, which contained a number of lies in an attempt to involve the great Jamahiriyah's name and distort the humanitarian stands of the great Al-Fatih revolution. The television also repeated its call to establish an international society free from wars and based upon mutual respect and cooperation between the peoples.

JANA's international affairs editor has commented on the program saying: The British television report was within the framework of the unjust campaign through which Western information organs have been trying to tarnish the great Jamahiriyah's image in the eyes of international public opinion. The people are fully aware of the aims of such an exposed campaign, which is within the framework of the imperialist scheme led by America and international Zionism against the Libyan Arab people.

JANA's international affairs editor denied the British television claims that the great Jamahiriyah had furnished a number of liberation movements and organizations with Semtex explosives, and asserted that such claims were merely a ring in the chain of the aggressive campaign against the Jamahiriyah because of its [position] as the fortress of steadfastness against imperialist schemes aimed at harming our Arab nation and the carrying of the banner of Arab unity. The Jamahiri choice is based upon the people's move away from the traditional regimes whose failure has become obvious to peoples everywhere in the world. They are now sure that there is no other alternative to the Jamahiriyah.

The editor pointed out that the quantity of explosives which the British television reported had been bought by the great Jamahiriyah should not give any rise to astonishment if one looks at the colossal civilized achievements which have been accomplished since the great al-Fatih revolution, as well as the massive number of development projects, including the construction of more than 30,000 kms of roads throughout the great Jamahiriyah, whose surface is equal to a third of the surface of Europe. Had the British television documentary mentioned this statistic, the listener and the viewer would have discovered for himself the falsity of such claims by the aforementioned television, and its lies would have back fired.

The editor concluded his comment by affirming that the great Jamahiriyah's stands are, notwithstanding the attempts by doubters and foes to tarnish them, and would remain humanitarian stands calling for the establishment of an international community free from wars and hegemony in accordance with the great Green Document of Human Rights in the era of the Jamahir, as well as the principles and the aims of the great Al-Fatih revolution.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Releases Prisoners for Festival

LD0107153190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Riyadh 1 July 90. SPA—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has given his noble orders to the Ministry of the interior to free prisoners and those who are on remand on the occasion of the blessed 'Id of Sacrifice, stressing the need to enable them to be with their families for the 'Id. This emerged in a statement made to SPA by an authoritative source at the Ministry of the Interior, who added:

"Such a noble initiative was taken by the custodian of the two holy mosques proceeding from his eagerness—may God protect him—to bring happiness to his sons, the citizens, on Islamic occasions by freeing those who are eligible for a pardon, in the same manner as those who were pardoned on the occasion of the month of the blessed Ramadan, whether they are Saudi citizens or foreigners."

The source concluded his statement by pointing out that the Interior Ministry has taken urgent measure to implement the noble royal decree.

Pilgrimage Security Situation Said 'Stable'

LD3006132290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] General 'Abdallah Bin-Abd-Al-Rahman-al-Shaykh, director of general security, stated that the security situation among pilgrims is stable. He indicated that the security plan is being meticulously implemented according to the desired goals.

In a statement to SPA, he said that in accordance with directives from the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, all security services have been mobilized for a quite a long time to their positions and along all the roads used by pilgrims in order to provide services related to the security and safety of these pilgrims.

He noted that no general security rooms have recorded the occurrence of any abnormal incidents, thank God. He praised the spirit of cooperation reigning among security men and the pilgrims.

The director of general security emphasized that early signs confirm the success of the security plan in Holy Mecca following its meticulous and vigilant implementation by all security men.

Editorial Hails Soviet Muslims Hajj Participation

JN0107202890 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Jun 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Facilities for Pilgrims and the Continuing Sacrifice"]

[Excerpt] The sublime initiatives, for which the custodian of the two holy mosques—God protect him—issued directives to be implemented, are a complete record full of good-will and sacrifice. They provide evidence after evidence that this country cares immensely about its historic commitments toward Islam and Muslims in every region of this world.

The directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques regarding hosting Soviet pilgrims are part of this generous program where he—God protect him—ordered the Hajj Ministry to take on the duty of hosting 1525 pilgrims from the Soviet Union from the moment they arrive in the Kingdom, and in Holy Mecca, Medina, and other holy places. They have been prevented from performing the pilgrimage for 73 years by the iron fist that kept them from performing their duty. Therefore, their joy is a double ecstasy: the joy of performing their duty and the joy of being hosted upon the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Al-Faysal Returns From Syria, Comments on Visit

LD3006160190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1425 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah 30 June (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has described his talks with Syrian officials as excellent and fruitful. He added in a statement to SPA following his return from Damascus yesterday: The talks have produced a common outlook regarding the steps which should be taken in order to bolster Lebanese legitimacy and overcome obstacles hindering the concord process. His Highness said His Excellency the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad expressed his full support for the effort of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee's leaders and his full backing for legitimacy, asserting that Syria will furnish anything that will contribute to bringing about concord and harmony to fraternal Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Salim Al-Huss Arrives in Jeddah

LD2906213190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss arrived in Jeddah today to perform the rites of minor pilgrimage. He was welcomed at King 'Abd al-'Aziz international airport by the district commissioner of Jeddah 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sudayri, a delegate from the royal protocol, the Lebanese ambassador to the Kingdom Dr. Dhafir al-Hasan, and a number of officials.

Suspension of U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue Viewed

PM2706104290 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 22 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Pain of Politics"]

[Text] The Palestinians have been check-mated—once again. The US has called the "suspension" of its dialogue with the PLO, thereby avoiding the November 1988 threat of Yasir 'Arafat that he would resign—and leave a vacuum that could be filled by hardliners—if the US failed to recognise the PLO. President George Bush did not let 'Arafat return to that position. The US has not "derecognised" the PLO, it has "merely" suspended the contacts allowed at the lowest possible level in Tunis. The dialogue has not produced any tangible results, anyway, for the Palestinians, while it was enjoyable for Washington insofar as Palestinians continued offering it one concession after another.

Of course, the main danger was that once the dialogue is disturbed, the PLO might turn back to its old military option. The U.S. was naturally concerned about the possible threat to its men and installations and therefore took so much time to take a decision. The decision to only suspend the dialogue has taken enough care of that eventuality, although, the trump card is the insult of "terrorism" that can always be slapped on the face of a Palestinian if he dares and decides to cry in action at the pain of politics. Obviously that is what Israel's terrorist Premier Yitzhaq Shamir wanted all along. He may be the happiest person in the world today and he has every reason to be so happy.

One more reason for Shamir's happiness is that his people have been carefully saved from a similar treatment for similar actions that are unlawful for Palestinians. Ironically, President Bush failed to take note of the fact that at least three such Israeli or eventually-Israeli actions did not get enough time to be wiped out of the public memory.

First, the massacre of Palestinian workers in a mad attack on a bus near Tel Aviv by a former "deranged" Israeli army soldier, Ami Popper—who was involved in a "solitary case". Second, the teargas shelling of a hospital run by a UN agency in Gaza and severely injuring more than 50 small children, most of them infants, as well as pregnant women, two of them suffered miscarriage. The army officer was first "punished" with 10 days in jail, later the punishment was commuted to 21-day suspension for which he will probably receive full salary. Third, the hijacking of a Soviet Aeroflot Tupolev civilian plane by three Soviet Jews to Helsinki with a threat to blow up the aircraft if they were not flown to Israel via Stockholm. Interestingly, all the major Western news agencies took several hours to write the story for the "facts" were all confusing for them as to the "identity" of the pirates, whether they "really" carried explosives, their names despite the surrender within one hour of their landing at Helsinki airport, etc. All these news agencies had never been in such disarray when the hijackers were Palestinians, or at least "Arab-looking" or of "Mideastern origin." President Bush's calculations on these three points are not correct. He demanded that 'Arafat must condemn—in no uncertain terms—the abortive Palestinian commando raid in retaliation to the cleverly planned attack on Palestinian workers by Ami Popper. None of the Israeli leaders ever condemned that attack in unambiguous terms. On the contrary one Likud minister lamented that Israel was "not even allowed to have a deranged person", meaning that all such massacres should be forgiven as acts of deranged Israelis and they be allowed to live a decent life in sympathy. President Bush showed that sympathy and did not ask Shamir to condemn Popper's massacre "in no uncertain term" and sentence him to a life term. But that demand he justified in case of a Palestinian action.

Similarly his administration did not make such demands in the case of the army officer and soldier who lobbed teargas shells inside a UN-run hospital in Gaza. President Bush also remained silent on the hijacking of a civilian plane by three prospective Israelis, even after the news agencies changed the earlier version and a Swedish statement that instead of seeking a safe passage to Israel, the three Soviet pirates "intended" to go to the U.S. Lastly, President Bush did not decide to at least suspend the us aid to Israel unless Shamir condemned all these three terrorist actions and punished their perpetrators as he demanded in the cast of Abu-al-'Abbas, whose faction had claimed the responsibility of the abortive commando raid—the U.S. called it "invasion"—inside Israel.

It's easy to accuse the U.S. of double standards. It has been accused so many times in the past that the charge has lost effect, if there was any, on Washington. A repetition of the same charge wil be shrugged off like a flea on the coat. The U.S. decision may also be considered a gift to the new, extremist-fundamentalist government of Israel. But that will be pinning the appreciation on Shamir's coat. This, however, can be done in order to remove the dirt, while the dirt will not be removed.

President Bush's announcement does not need all this. It needs a careful and dispassionate study, an intelligent analysis, for the reconfirmation of the obvious reasons for the all-out U.S. support for Israel and its hidden hatred of Palestinians, or perhaps the Arabs in general. Without a full knowledge of those reasons, the Arabs cannot deal with the U.S.. If the U.S. cannot be dealt with according to Arab interests, then the Arabs have to deal with themselves and know how is it possible.

That requires another study. The U.S. is losing ground as a big power. But then it would not solve the Mid-east crisis. Israel has other eager buyers. What do the Arabs have on the other hand? Unfortunately, that requires a third study for they are otherwise fated to rewrite the 14th-15th century history of Andalusia. Perhaps that is the point from where the study should begin, if it begins!

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Discusses Dialogue, Gulf Peace

JN2906131190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani has stressed that reaching comprehensive peace in the Gulf region has become very probable these days, more so than ever before.

He called for speeding up Arab coordination and reviewing the dangerous deteriorating situation in the Middle East caused by developments following the formation of Israel's extremist government, a government of war and aggression. All this necessitates Arab coordination and review of the situation.

In an interview published in the latest issue of the weekly magazine 26 SEPTEMBER, Al-Iryani declared that this coordination need not take the form of another emergency summit, but that there is a need to concentrate on greater coordination.

The foreign minister described the U.S. decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO as having placed the region on the brink of an explosion. He said that this greatly endangers the region's security and peace. It almost closes the doors to peace and affords unlimited encouragement to the Zionist enemy to indulge in its aggressive policy.

Concerning security on the western side of the Red Sea, the foreign minister said peace in this region will continue to be the duty of Yemen and neighboring countries, and any efforts toward this goal will be accepted by Yemen without hesitation.

Concerning the situation in Lebanon, the brother foreign minister was optimistic that the situation in Lebanon was moving along the right course.

In response to a question concerning the Baghdad summit resolutions and achievements, Dr. al-Iryani said that there were resolutions dealing with Arab reality and the signs appeared to be good. He expressed regret that the international community did not care about the Baghdad summit resolutions, especially the straightforward and clear stance taken on the peace process.

Regarding the next meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council Ministerial Council, Dr. al-Iryani pointed out that the agenda's proposed topics will be topped by a progress report on the implementation of concluded agreements. There might also be additional agreements to complement these earlier ones. The conferees will also review some points on which there was no final accord at the Amman summit. He explained that they will also discuss Arab and international stands as well as the latest regional developments.

Salih Continues Tour of Southern Governorates

Visits Aden

JN2906180290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrived in the commercial capital, Aden, today accompanied by Presidential Council member Salim Salih Muhammad; Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for interior affairs; Brigadier General Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, deputy prime minister for defense and security affairs; and ministers and officials from certain departments. This is part of his current tour of Republic governorates to find out about the situation, concerns, and aspirations of the citizenry. [passage omitted]

Arrives in Ta'izz

JN0107192290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has arrived in Ta'izz on his current tour of the Republic's governorates, which included Ma'rib, Hadramawt, al-Mahrah, Shabwah, and the commercial capital, Aden. [passage omitted]

Lahj Governorate GPC Founding Meeting Held

EA3006212090 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The founding meeting of the General People's Congress [GPC] in Lahj Governorate was convened this afternoon at the guest house in Hawtah. The meeting was attended by brothers Dr. 'Abdullah Husayn Barakat, member of the Advisory Council; Dr. Muhammad Awad al-Sa'id, member of the Advisory Council; and Mahmud Husayn Sabaa, member of the Council of Representatives and chairman of the executive bureau of the local people's council in the governorate.

At the start of the meeting, Brother 'Abdullah Barakat delivered a keynote speech in which he explained the objectives and principles of the GPC and its national charter. He pointed out that the GPC and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] held the honors in the long struggle for the realization of the unity of Yemeni land and people through peaceful means. This struggle was crowned on 22 May by the proclamation of the establishment of the Republic of Yemen.

He stressed that the GPC and the YSP are working together to safeguard unity from its foes who are on the lookout. He said that both the GPC and the YSP would open separate branches in various governorates. Merging any of the branches will only take place by mutual consent. The two bodies will work to identify people's grievances and problems and put them before the government.

Columnist Says Aid to Iran 'New Message of Peace'

JN2906121190 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 28 Jun 90 p 2

["Behind the Events" column: "The New Message of Peace" by Ra'id Ahmad al-Samirra'i]

[Text] In many principled and firm position statements, Iraq has reiterated, through its great leader Saddam Husayn, that it is a country seeking to put together a balanced and reasonable policy based on two things. The first is the emergence of intrinsic power built on modern technology and techniques to confront the dangers threatening Iraqi national security; the second is that Iraq seeks to entrench the pillars of peace and stability in one of the most important and hottest spots in the world.

In light of its long military and combat experience, Iraq is aware that no peace or security can prevail if not based on a deterrent force equal to the force possessed by the enemies and those who every so often threaten to use it.

At the same time, Iraq is also aware—through its military experience—of the importance of security, peace, and stability in the life of people and nations seeking cultural progress. Hence Iraq's continuous calls for establishing good relations with neighboring countries based on dialogue instead of escalation and tension, so as to reach good results serving the neighborly and conversing parties.

In light of this also, the victorious leader, Saddam Husayn, sent continual messages of peace to Iran's peoples and leaders on the first days of the war and after the cessation of the actual military operations and the Iraqi victory. The last messages were the two messages of peace leader Saddam Husayn sent to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani calling for a direct and frank dialogue divorced from procrastination to reach fair and satisfactory solutions to various controversial issues.

In order to underscore this principled stand as well as its continuous concern to see the regional peoples living in peace, Iraq sent condolences to the Iranian people, the families of the victims, and those affected by the catastrophic earthquake that struck Iran. Iraq also made the noble decision to send a private plane with Iraqi aid consisting of medicine and medical supplies, despite the fact that the parties have not yet concluded a final peace nor have their relations returned to normal.

The recent Iraqi decision reaffirms the continuing adherence to the peace option as an inevitable road for the resumption of development and construction in the two countries. The decision also represents a new Iraqi message of peace to be added to the previous messages of peace which all call for opening a clear and direct road for diplomatic dialogue and reorganizing relations with Iran on a basis serving the two parties' interests free of military tension so that the two parties may be free to deal with their countries' interests, which were damaged along eight years of grinding war.

It is therefore a new message of peace from Iraq as well as a lofty humanitarian message affirming Iraq's humanitarian and cultural approach.

ABC's Diane Sawyer Interviews Saddam Husayn

JN3006130090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by ABC correspondent Diane Sawyer on 24 June; place not given]

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jun (INA)—[Sawyer] Good morning.

[Husayn] Good morning. How are you?

[Sawyer] Fine. We thank you for giving us the opportunity to hold this interview.

[Husayn] The president: You are welcome.

[Sawyer] Thank you.

[Husayn] We are not accustomed to frequent interviews with journalists.

[Sawyer] Many U.S. politicians would welcome such a situation.

[Husayn] Probably, but your media does not let them enjoy their personal freedom. They are faced with the media wherever they go. I believe this makes government officials look more like movie stars. They should decide matters away from the floodlights. I wish this meeting had taken place during one of my visits so you could see the situation as it is. It would have been better than sitting in a studio and arranging everything in advance.

[Sawyer] Yes. But movie stars get money from all these cameras and floodlights.

[Husayn] That is life.

[Sawyer] When will you be going on a visit?

[Husayn] Our visits differ from others. We usually make surprise visits so we can see things as they are. When we were at elementary school, we would know when the district officer or his deputy was about to visit our area. But we remember seeing the king once.

[Sawyer] Do you remember the scene?

[Husayn] Yes. Before any government official visited the area, they cleaned the streets and asked schoolchildren to wear clean clothes. Government officials, when they came, did not see life as it was, but saw something that was prepared and made to look like the people's life just for that day or a part of the day. When a government official sees life as it is, it helps him to reach the correct conclusions.

[Sawyer] But would it not be difficult for every world leader to see the real picture as it is? Is it not one of the most difficult tasks facing leaders?

[Husayn] Exactly. This is why one leader cannot do things the same way as another. This calls for hard work. It also depends on the nature of the regime, the standard of development, the type of social relations, and so forth. These visits are tiring, but desirable, especially visits to rural areas.

[Sawyer] Was life difficult in Tikrit, where you were raised?

[Husayn] Life was difficult everywhere in Iraq. During my childhood, very few people wore shoes. And in many cases, they only wore them on special occasions. Some peasants would not put their shoes until they had reached their destination, so they would look smart. They would carry them under their armpits to protect them from the sand and from wear and tear, because they could not afford a new pair.

[Sawyer] Do you remember your first pair of shoes, Mr. President?

[Husayn] I wore shoes from early childhood because I was born in Tikrit. My father died before I was born. My mother lived at my grandfather's house. My uncle, who was the father of 'Adnan [late Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah] and my wife, was an Army officer. His social status was thus higher than others, and I wore good clothes.

[Sawyer] Did people blame the British?

[Husayn] Some enlightened people knew that we were a rich country and that our wealth was going outside. Among them was my uncle, who was imprisoned for five years and dismissed from the Army because of the position he had taken against the British.

[Sawyer] Was this the beginning of your anger at the British?

[Husayn] Our nationalist sentiments were strong; our forefathers had clashed with the Ottoman government and my mother's grandfather and two of my maternal grandfather's brothers were martyred.

[Sawyer] Was there one particular moment when you decided to become a revolutionary?

[Husayn] The preparation was gradual, but when I decided to join the party the decision was mine and had been made a long time before. Our families told us about nationalist symbols, about the injustice of the occupiers and Ottoman rule, and about the injustice done to our lord al-Husayn [son of Muslim Caliph 'Ali Bin-Abi Talib]. All this was the preparation; we had been hearing it since we were four years old. But toward the end of 1956, after the tripartite aggression against Egypt, our position changed: I took part in demonstrations and joined the party.

[Sawyer] Mr. President, I now need to use this earphone, so that they can inform me in case there is any problem during the recording, and I hope you will pin this microphone onto your tie to facilitate the recording.

[Husayn] Some Americans will wonder about the thing Saddam Husayn has got on his tie.

[Sawyer] Americans know that this is television practice.

[Husayn] Well, this is the first U.S. media group we have met that wants to show us as we really look.

[Sawyer] You look elegant, Mr. President. You see that our equipment is very advanced. Sometimes we long for the days when reporters carried only a pen and paper; now we are more like a small army. What is that I see on your hand?

[Husayn] It is a tattoo. In the countryside, they do this to women, men, and youths at certain ages; or to young boys to indicate they have become mature. It is an old practice; it no longer exists; it is done with a needle.

[Sawyer] Does it have any religious significance?

[Husayn] No, it is just a picture of a tree.

[Sawyer] Was it ever possible that you would remain at a farm in Tikrit and live all your life there, perhaps, or did you believe at any time that you would have another kind of life?

[Husayn] I might not have learned to read and write. I enrolled in school on my own decision, not the decision of my family. In the summer of 1946 or 1947, I met with my cousin, who was my age and had been promoted from the first to the second grade. We had been swimming in the river, and while sitting on the sandy beach he began to write signs that I did not know. When I asked him, he used to say this is the letter "a" in English, corresponding to letter "a" in Arabic. He would write 5, for instance, and tell me that this was the number five. I asked him where he had learned this and he told me at school. I asked if I could go with him to the school and he said yes, it is easy; you just go with me to Tikrit. At that time, we were living in al-Fathah in Ba'ji. I decided to go to school, but my family prevented me.

[Sawyer] Why?

[Husayn] They believed the son should stay with his family and my enrollment in school would have meant moving from the countryside to the city. I waited until they were asleep and at midnight, I sneaked out of bed and walked to where I took a taxi to Tikrit. I walked about three hours by night; I enrolled in the school and received my education. It was thus possible for me to stay as a farmer in the countryside; this is the basic job of our kinfolk.

[Sawyer] May I ask what you read these days? We Westerners are self-centered, and I would like to ask if you read Western books or watch Western movies.

[Husayn] Yes, of course. We watch movies whenever possible, time permitting. I have read some translated books.

[Sawyer] May I ask what book you admired most?

[Husayn] I usually read without learning by heart or retaining details. I set myself not to indulge in details; I only read to get general ideas. When we read about De Gaulle, we want to get an idea about his country and the mentality of its statesmen. We read about Lenin, Mao Tse-Tung, Churchill, or Roosevelt to get ideas about life in other nations.

[Sawyer] We have heard that you consider Stalin a hero, as a person.

[Husayn] No doubt, he was a hero to his people in the sense that he was strong during World War II. However, we did not say he was a hero; the Americans labeled him a hero when they allied themselves with him against Hitler.

[Sawyer] But even Gorbachev now describes him as a tough man.

[Husayn] There is a difference between his position in wartime and his position toward his people. He was excellent at war and a good leader. This is the way we would describe him, and we have not described him in any other way. I think Stalin had shortcomings in his views on life, but we Arabs are accustomed to criticizing others when they are standing on their feet. For instance, our party criticized Stalin when the Soviet Union was at the height of its power. In our party conference in 1963—and I was still in the party cadre—I criticized the leadership and said it had borrowed some ideas from the Stalin mentality. We also used to criticize Ceausescu when he was president, and at a time when the West considered him a window through which the ideas of Western freedom could move into the closed camp. We criticized him directly, especially his questionable role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. When he died, the West began to criticize him and we stopped doing so; these are Arab ethics.

[Sawyer] This is another question about your personal history, Mr. President. We have read many stories about your courage in 1959. You were a member of a team assigned to assassinate 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim and that after the attempt you removed a bullet from your leg. Is this a true story?

[Husayn] It is essentially true. The party had decided that I be among those chosen to write a new page in the revolution's history. The revolution was supposed to be an all-out one. It included shooting 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim so that the conflict between the revolutionaries and the government might not be a bloody one. I was chosen among others, and I was a student in the last year of high school.

[Sawyer] Was this an honor for you?

[Husayn] Yes. It was a great honor for me to be one of the revolutionaries who intended to save the entire peo . from the evils of dictatorship, totalitarianism, and communism. Our country could have gone in the communist direction. It is natural for those who intend to save their nation from injustice to perform their duties courageously and honestly; this is a great honor. I took part in the action irrespective of other opinions about it. The subsequent party leadership considered the decision by the preceding leadership to be wrong, but considered those junior party members who carried out the operation to be good militants because they had implemented party orders.

[Sawyer] Before we move to international issues, may I ask you something, Mr. President—and I know that you have been asked many questions about it. When Westerners visit Baghdad and tour its streets, they see all these pictures of you; they hear many songs praising Saddam Husayn and children singing for Saddam Husayn; and they see pictures and paintings of Saddam Husayn in different poses and clothing. Westerners wonder about this and ask whether it is an example of people-worship.

[Husayn] Our people worship only God almighty. You know that the Arab land is the source of inspiration and the cradle of religions. The Arabs, therefore, worship God alone, but they also appreciate the leaders who serve their countries, just like all other nations who take deep pride in their leaders. If we do not take pride in our current and past leaders, we will not encourage good leaders in the future. I understand the criticism by some Westerners against these phenomena, because their stage of development is different from ours. If President Bush, for instance, visited an American village and was asked by the inhabitants to improve the transportation network, he would not be able to do so because the system is different.

Now, you are wearing these beautiful clothes. President Bush is not to be thanked for this, because he is President number something-or-other who came to power after a series of developments in the United States of America. As for Saddam Husayn, he is to be found in every quantity of milk provided to children and in every clean, new jacket worn by an Iraqi—clean and new jackets of which they were deprived before the revolution. Saddam Husayn was also part of the decision that gave Iraqi oil to Iraqis after it had belonged to foreigners. He is also to be found in all the facilities provided to Iraqi women now giving birth in hospitals, whereas in the past they gave birth on farmland. Hence, the situation here is different from the situation in France, Italy, or the United States. When the role and influence change, the assessment is bound to change.

In the United States, the president's attention is divided among the concerns of the presidents of corporations, because this is the way your system works. Every corporation president acts like a head of state.

[Sawyer] I do not think the president or corporation presidents would agree with you on this. They believe they are fully independent.

[Husayn] That is why I say it. What I am saying is that President Bush has the authority to use the powers granted to him. The corporation president can increase the wages of his corporation employees. Employees owe allegiance to the corporation president.

I have explained why Iraqis admire Saddam Husayn more than the American people admire Bush, or more than Thatcher is admired in England, or Mitterrand in France. Consequently, they put up portraits of their own volition. We do not force them to put up portraits.

I am explaining something to you. Some citizens draw, according to their own abilities, portraits of Saddam Husayn. Some of these portraits are inaccurate. They put them up on the streets and on their homes. The government and party decided that these portraits must be removed because they are inaccurate. I rejected this suggestion and told them that it was a reflection of the citizens' abilities. I added that, if citizens had been able to draw more accurate portraits, they would have done so without hesitation. If we were to remove these portraits, we would hurt their feelings. So, it reflects the people's feelings. Does not democracy call for respecting people's feelings?

[Sawyer] What about official pictures?

[Husayn] Official pictures are distributed to various government departments, as is the custom in every nation. Try to visit some departments. You will find official pictures on walls, but you will also come across an unofficial small painting of Saddam Husayn done by a citizen. Is it prudent to prevent this?

[Sawyer] Let us now move to another point, because there are other important issues. The latest thing Americans heard was an expression or a statement in which you said: By God, we will burn half of Israel if it tries to harm or attack Iraq, or any part of Iraq. We do not need a nuclear bomb. We possess the binary chemical. Whoever threatens us with nuclear weapons, we will destroy him with chemical weapons. The United States has described these words as unwise and inflammatory. Did you actually mean what you said?

[Husayn] We have learned some of this talk from U.S. presidents. If you ask me how, I will tell you. After the United States and the Soviet Union acquired nuclear weapons, successive U.S. presidents exchanged warnings with the Soviets saying: If you strike, we will destroy you. Both sides were, in a way, displaying their power in specific circumstances. Is this not correct?

[Sawyer] Yes.

[Husayn] We still say that war is crazy. We also say that wars result in tragedies, regardless of their circumstances and results. But we believe that wisdom also says that if you do not want to involve your enemy, you tell him what your reaction will be if he attacks you.

Therefore, we spoke when the Israeli generals were talking about the need to direct a preemptive strike at Iraq and when some people in the West were preparing the political and media grounds for such a strike. You can go back to the statements by certain Israelis and in some of the Western media about the need to direct strikes, perhaps with missiles, at certain scientific institutions that they say are producing chemical weapons. If this happened and Israel attacked—thinking that Iraq would not reply—what should we expect? War would break out and there would be counterstrikes. Is it better for us to prevent the destruction before it takes place or wait for the moment to use the weapons of destruction? We believe that in such a situation it is better to let all parties know in one way or another about the harm counterstrikes will do.

[Sawyer] But many people would be shocked when they hear such words from you.

[Husayn] This is because it is the first time they have heard such words from the Arabs. In the past, it was Israel that spoke about striking and then actually struck—without the world uttering a single word. Israel struck in Lebanon, Tunisia, and Iraq. Before that, it struck several Arab states. Did the Western media launch the campaign they are launching now against Iraq, which is only saying: If Israel attacks Iraq or the Arabs, we will attack it?

[Sawyer] Does what you are saying now mean that in any conflict between Israel and any Arab side you will use chemical weapons?

[Husayn] What I clearly said is as follows: If Israel attacks Iraq or the Arabs, we will attack it. If it thinks it can use the atomic weapons in its possession, then it must know that Iraq possesses the binary chemical weapon, which is capable of doing it great harm.

[Sawyer] This is very important and I would like it to be clear. What you are saying is that you will side with any Arab country in a military conflict with Israel, but only when Israel threatens to use the nuclear weapon. Your reply then would be to use the chemical weapon; in other words, when there is a direct threat from Israel to use the nuclear weapon.

[Husayn] Exactly. This was what we said. It was in plain language. Politicians in the West have also understood it. But some tendentious people have taken the first part or half of the statement out of context and have said that Saddam Husayn threatened to burn half of Israel. They did not also mention that I said: If Israel attacks the Arabs or Iraq, Iraq will reply. And, that if it used or threatened to use [nuclear weapons], then it must remember that Iraq possesses the binary chemical weapon. Incidentally, the gas masks Israel is distributing are useless. You know that masks are useless against certain types of chemical weapons. You notice how we

are enumerating our capabilities. Israel does not do the same, because it actually wants war. We, on the other hand, are giving warning because we do not want destruction or any harm to come to mankind.

[Sawyer] You say these masks are useless. Then they would be deluding themselves if they put them on to protect themselves against these weapons?

[Husayn] We believe peace is the only way. Taking practical steps toward peace is the wise and sound way to deal with developments, apart from recognizing the Palestinian people's rights; ridding the region of mass-destruction weapons—whether chemical, nuclear, or biological; and creating an atmosphere of peace. When the countries in the region have created an atmosphere of peace, there will no longer be a need to stockpile weapons, not even conventional weapons.

Therefore, when we have weapons, we have them to defend ourselves and not to attack anyone.

[Sawyer] I wanted to move on to the subject of the PLO, but there is a point I wish to clarify. Could any of your military leaders decide to use chemical weapons, or is the decision entirely in your hands?

[Husayn] In the case where Israel uses atomic or chemical weapons, then yes. The duties are clear and equal regardless of whether the order is issued by a missile base or an airbase. When it is known that Israel has used atomic or chemical weapons, then they must direct them to Israel.

[Sawyer] The PLO: The U.S. Administration has suspended dialogue with the PLO because it failed to condemn the operation against Israel. If the PLO approaches you and asks you to adopt sanctions against the United States, will you respond to the PLO? Will you stop the flow of oil, for example?

[Husayn] The economy is the basic element of life and should not be tampered with without great care. However, it is natural for us to harm whoever tries to harm us, in a way equal to the method and type of harm we get. So far, the United States has not boycotted the Arabs economically, for example, for us to respond by boycotting it economically.

Nevertheless, we still say that the U.S. Administration's decision is not a democratic one. Why do they run away from the dialogue while claiming that their system is based on dialogue?

Just imagine the conceit and arrogance in the United States and inside the administration, apart from their fear of the Zionist lobby. They suspend a mere dialogue with the PLO. What does this mean? I believe that any clear and honest-thinking Arab considers this U.S. decision a humiliation to the Arabs.

[Sawyer] However, many Americans know that accusations are coming from various parties as to why the PLO does not denounce or condemn the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] operation and his organization [Palestine Liberation Front], who admitted responsibility for the boat operation and for planning an attack on Israel. Do you not denounce them, Mr. President, and condemn this policy?

[Husayn] Do you not consider fedayeen operations against a foreign occupation to be a legitimate act?

[Sawyer] Even against innocent people on a beach?

[Husayn] No. In the first place, the Palestinians must target the elements of power in Israel. However, do you not know that the fedayeen in Afghanistan, for example, could fire a rocket and kill women and children, and perhaps a few soldiers?. Have you condemned such actions? When the Algerians were fighting French colonialism, were civilians not killed in some fedayeen raids? In any fedayeen or military operation, innocent people are killed.

[Sawyer] Mr. President, many people consider this issue to be the heart and soul of the process that forces the exchange of violence. Do you believe that Israel has the right to live peacefully within secure borders?

[Husayn] First and foremost, I would like to say clearly that never in the history of the Arabs as a nation has it been recorded that they are prejudiced against religious or ethnic groups. The answer to this question will become clearer when Israel and the world recognize the Palestinian people's rights. The Arabs say that it is the right of any people or nation to live in peace and security. As regards Israel, do not ask things of the Arabs from which Israel can profit while the Palestinian Arabs are not given balanced benefits in return.

Therefore, to ask what Israel's rights are without Israel asking about the rights of the Palestinian Arabs is to give Israel something without getting anything in return. This would be a political mistake. However, on the other hand, we believe that the Arabs have not stooped to the low level of being hostile to any nation, people, or group, including the people of Israel. We have unlimited examples of civilians, men, women, and children who are targeted by Israeli individuals and are killed by them, whether in the distant past or within the past six months. Paul—an American citizen—was killed. He was killed only because he was a scientist. Before that, an Egyptian scientist was killed under the pretext that he was cooperating with Iraq. Are these military men? If Western media were honest, why did they not concentrate on this behavior? Therefore, Western media is manipulated, and some elements are even biased.

[Sawyer] You mean Dr. Gerald Paul, who was cooperating with Iraq in designing military weapons?

[Husayn] The West said he was cooperating with Iraq. Was he brought to trial? How can a man be killed on the street only because he is accused? Is this not against human rights? Why did the Western media not concentrate on this, since it is a U.S. issue?

[Sawyer] I believe this point is important, Mr. President, and it should be discussed. I would like to clarify something. If the PLO and Israel reach an agreement on the right to self-determination, will you accept Israel's right to exist?

[Husayn] I say clearly that anything accepted by the PLO will be approved by all the Arabs. I believe they will agree to it. What we as Arabs want is peace, not war—but peace must preserve our dignity, our rights, and our right to exist.

[Sawyer] Regarding nuclear weapons, Mr. President, I know you have signed an agreement on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and that Israel has not signed that agreement.

[Husayn] Why do the mass media not concentrate on this? Why do they not say to Israel: You are a small entity, and the basis of your security lies in peace, not in attempts to acquire mass-destruction weapons?

[Sawyer] The reason may be that the Americans believe that Iraq wants to acquire nuclear weapons.

[Husayn] Is it logical to assume, for democratic purposes, that we have to wait until Iraq, Egypt, Syria, or Tunisia possesses the atomic bomb in order to correct matters in the following way: By having an equal number of atomic bombs as Israel? Is this better? Would it not have been better to prevent Israel from acquiring chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons?

I believe it was illogical to allow Israel to have these weapons, because Israel usurped Arab rights using conventional weapons. It did not possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons to defend itself. Therefore, it is Israel that tempted the Arabs to acquire chemical weapons after it had acquired these weapons along with nuclear weapons.

[Sawyer] Let us say, in theory and for the sake of argument, that Iraq wants nuclear weapons and it wants to acquire nuclear weapons. How long would it take to acquire a nuclear weapon, two or five years?

[Husayn] You in the United States have defined a certain period of time for Iraq or others to acquire nuclear weapons.

[Sawyer] Of course, the United States and U.S. officials have said that Iraq was busy going around the world in search of nuclear weapon technology. As you know, there are legal cases pending in the United States on smuggling capacitors for these purposes.

[Husayn] But we bought them on the U.S. market in accordance with the law.

[Sawyer] Americans think the approach was wrong and illegal, because you bought the capacitors through a company dealing with foodstuffs and that the containers of these capacitors were shipped in refrigerators. Americans have also read in newspapers that the head of the company said the devices were designed especially for nuclear weapons and not for laser research or any other scientific purpose.

[Husayn] I will make a brief comment on this. I am saying that we imported capacitors from the United States for the purposes explained and spelled out in a statement by a Foreign Ministry official spokesman before the importation of these capacitors, which you said were shipped in a certain manner—in the manner you just explained. These capacitors had the same specifications as other capacitors. If the party that showed a lack of good faith also insinuated in a certain way that Iraq wanted the capacitors for purposes other than that for which they were originally imported, then we cannot be held responsible. We are responsible for the contract that shows the specifications of the goods. All the contracts through which we imported U.S. capacitors show that the capacitors would be used for purposes other than nuclear detonation. All U.S. and West European politicians who make accurate statements have not said that Iraq possesses nuclear weapons; and this is a true representation of the facts. Chemical and nuclear weapons are not conventional weapons. You were the first to possess them. Besides, you also know how sophisticated these weapons are. What would the situation be if this or that country were able to take this step and produce nuclear bombs? If we were in possession of the nuclear bomb, we might facilitate peace and the destruction of mass-destruction weapons, and thus help people to live in security. If the United States were to lend us some [nuclear] weapons, it might facilitate peace in the Middle East.

[Sawyer] I do not believe that they would agree with Your Excellency on this.

[Husayn] Then, let them destroy the weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East if they truly want peace. Let the United States convince Israel to destroy weapons of mass destruction, make peace with the Palestinians, and consequently end its current role.

[Sawyer] The Americans are always saying: Who is Iraq trying to fool? It is cooperating with Chile and other countries such as France in this regard. Even though you might not possess this weapon, you are persistently seeking to acquire it. Some Americans are saying: Why do you not acknowledge this, since you are seeking to obtain the technology for this weapon?

[Husayn] I would answer you by saying that this question and concern must be addressed to Israel, because Iraq's quest for obtaining this weapon is based on assumptions rather than information. As for Israel's acquisition of nuclear bombs and chemical weapons, this is accurate information and substantiated facts. Hence, can this nebulous question and concern be addressed to the party that is supposedly seeking to obtain this weapon? Should not this question be addressed to the party that is actually in possession of the weapon? Or do the U.S. people think that what is permissible for Israel is off limits for the Arabs? If the U.S. people make this

mistake, it would mean they are racists who differentiate among peoples according to ethnic origins and religious affiliations.

[Sawyer] But, we are asking you, Mr. President. Is this assumption true?

[Husayn] I say clearly that Iraq does not possess nuclear weapons.

[Sawyer] Is Iraq trying to obtain nuclear technology?

[Husayn] I will not answer this. But I also say clearly that it is the right of any nation or people to defend itself and its independence. It is not the right of any nation or people to hold humanity in contempt, but to behave responsibly. It is also the right of any nation or people to possess the weapons with which to face the enemy when it possesses a certain kind of weapon.

[Sawyer] I notice that His Excellency the President has not answered my hypothetical question on how long it would take Iraq to acquire this weapon. I am trying to get an answer once again.

[Husayn] If we had a program, we would have said clearly how much time we needed to acquire this or that weapon. We believe now that the binary chemical weapon is sufficient to fight the Israeli atomic bomb.

[Sawyer] What I consider to be at the heart of the question, Mr. President—and you must also be aware that many Americans who read newspapers are also asking the same question—is that the Americans are reading reports about large and endless arms deals with Iraq. Are these reports correct or not? Are the reports on Iraq's acquisition of weapons correct or not?

[Husayn] Some of them are correct.

[Sawyer] The story on this supergun or long-range weapons. The end result is that we have the most dangerous man in the world.

[Husayn] This is not a true picture of me. It is fabricated. As for the other picture, yes, it is mine. This image was deliberately projected in this manner. They [not further identified] have retouched the picture. It seems they are experts at this. Now, you can tell where were the retouches are, because you see me as I am.

[Sawyer] We have discussed the image, but what about the words?

[Husayn] Yes. We have conventional weapons, some of which are enough for us, and some are still below our needs to defend our country. Israel possesses more effective weapons than all those we have. I wish to ask a direct question to the journalist, as a U.S. citizen: Assuming that the gun, which they have talked about, was a reality, why should this gun be more dangerous than Israel's 1,500-km range missile, which it obtained with cooperation from the West?

[Sawyer] Naturally, the Israelis would say: Israel has not said that half of Iraq must be destroyed and Israel has never said that Arab countries cannot exist.

[Husayn] However, through the Zionist lobby in the United States and through the Israeli prime minister, Israel has said that Israel must have territory capable of defending itself, which means borders which can be defended in light of the new developments. So far, Israel has not fixed where its borders are. Can you obtain a map of Israel signed by the Knesset or the Israeli Government in which they say that this is the final map of Israel? Israel attacked Iraq in 1981, and Iraq did not strike against Israel. It has also attacked Tunisia and Lebanon. Today, if we go to Egypt, Jordan, or Syria and ask them to give us maps for their states, they will all give maps. However, Israel will not give us a map, because it is based on expansion.

[Sawyer] I wish to move on to the United States with one question only, and not because I want to talk politics. Do you sincerely believe that a war will start here in the Middle East within a year or a year and a half?

[Husayn] We do not want war because Iraq knows what war means. Iraq fought for eight years and is still purchasing weapons at the expense of its people's bread and butter to prevent a resumption of war with Iran. Therefore, Iraq does not want war because it knows its tragedies. But Israel does not know the tragedies of war, because it has never fought in circumstances that make it bear the heavy losses and hence refrain from adventures. Therefore, we expect it to embark on an adventure. This adventure might be brought about by taking the initiative to launch a war or by recklessness in dealing with peace.

[Sawyer] The United States has said that it expelled an Iraqi diplomat, who, it claimed, hired two people for $50,000 to murder two Iraqis. Do you approve of such an act?

[Husayn] We have stated and declared our point of view. We still say that the talk about the arrested Iraqi diplomat is a mere fabrication, and we are still waiting for the trial. If you are convinced after the trial that what the U.S. State Department has said is true, then we will ask the United States for the details to punish that diplomat who works for the Iraqi Embassy, because this means he was working on his own or for a party other than Iraq. He told us that this never happened and, so far, we still believe him.

[Sawyer] In spite of the true things said by the human rights organizations, will you invite them to visit Iraq?

[Husayn] We are in a confrontation now, and we will not invite anyone. If you say I will come here [to Iraq] only on such and such conditions, we will say sorry and will not receive you. Therefore, we will not accept any decision that weakens our people's morale or makes them feel less than their peoples. For example, we invited Mrs. Mitterrand to visit Iraq and the northern

region, where the majority of our Kurdish people live, and asked her to see the Kurds' living conditions. We invited her not in her capacity as a human rights advocate, but as the wife of the head of a friendly state. However, when they insisted on coming in their official capacity, we said: No. Our country can allow the people who see things as they are to see what they wish to see. But when things fall within the context of confrontation, we do not invite anyone.

Take another example, two or three days ago, we received a request from Mr. Dole, Mr. Specter, and Mr. Kelly, whom we all respect, in which they suggested they visit Iraq. But, through that request, it became apparent to us that they made the request in light of the unhealthy atmosphere between Iraq and the United States. They said: If we come to Iraq, the following conditions must be met. I said: I respect the three persons, but notice how this sick behavior can affect wise conduct. What are the conditions to come to Iraq?

1. To declare Iraq's acceptance of Resolutions No. 242 and 338, and to tell them before they come that Iraq agrees to the rest of their conditions, which should be announced after the visit.
2. To declare that Iraq will not carry out a first strike against Israel.
3. To announce Iraq's readiness to push the peace process in the region forward by agreeing to an international conference called for by the United States and the USSR as an alternative to the conference called for by the five major powers.

Just look at these conditions. As an American, do you believe it is wise for an American group that is visiting Iraq for a dialogue to ask Iraq to implement these conditions in advance?

[Sawyer] No.

[Husayn] Of course, we have told the group that all that is wrong is that the atmosphere is tense and the time is not ripe for this dialogue. In light of this, we believe it is better to postpone the congressmen's visit.

[Sawyer] Do you think this group is playing the small U.S. game that is known as politics?

[Husayn] I believe the U.S. Congress has pressured Mr. Dole and Mr. Spector, because they expressed their impressions after visiting Iraq. I also believe that they pressured Mr. Kelly, and that the three decided to come to Iraq with these conditions. Perhaps, they did not set these conditions themselves, but had them imposed on them, because the parties that have exerted pressure believe that Iraq would reject the visit, and so they would say: See, Iraq is aggressive, does not respect international relations, and does not want peace. But we said let Mr. Spector and Mr. Dole postpone the visit, and let Mr. Kelly come without preconditions. However, I say, without meaning any harm, that if the United States continues its arrogant policy toward peoples, then it will lose much of its strength in a short period of time, and it will lose a great deal. Today's world is different from that of 10 years ago.

[Sawyer] I want to continue on this subject by asking questions related to the United States, because we may clarify something. Mr. President, you spoke about a new constitution that would be enacted before the end of the year.

[Husayn] God willing.

[Sawyer] Do you agree that this new constitution does not raise any hope for new freedoms, for a free press, or for the freedom of expression in the country?

[Husayn] We have now a number of newspapers, some of them belong to individuals, some belong to a party and are registered under the name of a person, and some belong to the state. So, we have a press, but not the kind of press we wish.

[Sawyer] It is not free?

[Husayn] It is not free according to U.S. standards, but it is free in accordance with the law.

[Sawyer] Why do you not declare a free press and the freedom of expression?

[Husayn] I have not finished yet. I said that the stage following the end of the war was a stage with its own standards, and we view the existing Constitution as having exhausted its objectives—I mean some of its articles. A new constitution must be enacted to represent the new stage that will be more open in the field of press, parties, and individual freedoms, and the form of government. Therefore, we are about to begin a new stage. At that time, all this will be announced, and there will be a new constitution and new laws in harmony with that stage. For example, among the executive councils that we will have is a senate known as the consultative council. It will have powers to enact laws, in addition to the National Assembly's powers to enact laws.

[Sawyer] Throughout East Europe, all governments have collapsed and held general elections, and you do not have any opposition to you. Are you going to conduct elections, and when?

[Husayn] We have held elections. One of the things I suppose you know, and which is sometimes missed by others, is that the American people, for instance, do not know that throughout the war there were elections for our executive councils and for the Legislative Council of Kurdistan and the National Assembly—Parliament—of all Iraq. Before the war, I requested my colleagues to discuss the question of direct election of the president of the Republic. They said this matter was linked to the Constitution, under which the president of the Republic is the chairman of the Revolution Command Council. While we were discussing this matter, the war broke out. We decided, among other things, to restore relations with the United States, but the war broke out and this decision was rescinded.

[Sawyer] I would like to talk a little about the United States. There is a feeling in the United States that relations between Iraq and the West have been very tense during the past six months. There was the execution of British journalist Bazoft, who was tried as a spy. There was also your statement on Israel. There was also talk at the Baghdad conference that the United States should withdraw its forces. Is the United States an enemy?

[Husayn] Withdraw forces from where...?

[Sawyer] Withdraw its ships from the Gulf.

[Husayn] Why can't you be properly democratic in your relations with the Gulf states? You say an American can criticize the president of the United States. Why is an American allowed to criticize the president of the United States, but the president of another state is not allowed to criticize U.S. policy? We have not brandished our weapons against the United States. Given the international changes and the fact that the U.S. President, press, and Congress have begun to say the Soviet Union no longer threatens the United States, there is no need for the presence of the U.S. fleet. The fleet came to the Gulf during a period of tension between East and West that increased during the Iraq-Iran war. The war ended and East-West relations have changed. Why is a campaign launched against us for saying this and not against those in both East and West who say NATO should reconsider its military status? This means the Zionist lobby and the U.S. Administration place a lower value on the Arab individual than on the American, Israeli, or European, and of course we reject this.

[Sawyer] What you said about the U.S. forces was not a threat but only a strategic proposal?

[Husayn] Mere talk in a speech, and you can read the speech. It is translated into English.

[Sawyer] You are talking about U.S. imperialism, but this phrase has been overtaken by decades of time.

[Husayn] But it seems to be a fixed quality. Are these conditions not imperialist? A committee comes for dialogue with us behaving as if we were an oppressed people on earth. We are depicted as enemies if we articulate our policy, if we fight, or if we purchase and manufacture weapons to defend ourselves. Is this not imperialism? It is a source of pride for us to see the United States officially announce that it is manufacturing weapons jointly with Israel. Does this policy not suggest describing the U.S. policy as imperialist?

[Sawyer] Do you trust President Bush?

[Husayn] I trust him to the degree to which he acts with respect toward my country and the Arabs. Thus far, his policy indicates that he is acting coolly and rationally. However, there are signs that indicate the contrary, such as the suspension of dialogue with the PLO and some anti-Iraq decisions taken through coordination with the Central Intelligence Agency and the British intelligence service.

[Text] [Sawyer] Has the United States won the cold war, and has this changed everything?

[Husayn] It depends on its subsequent behavior. It may imagine it has won it and then fall into self-delusion, make mistakes, and lose. By the way, communism has failed not because the United States wanted it to fail, but because of its own mistakes. It denied God, other opinions, and a free economy. Therefore, it made mistakes in the basic issues of life and in the relationship between man and God. It is wrong to believe that what happened in Romania or Czechoslovakia is good for Iraq. These are wrong conclusions. With the passage of time, they will discover they are wrong. We overcome or correct our mistakes, but they should wait five years until the next General Congress and discuss these mistakes. We believe that our theory is more correct than capitalism or communism. We are open to the world and interact with anything new without isolation or complication.

[Sawyer] I would like to ask if it is time for you, Mr. President, to give freedom to opposition parties and people to talk about you and criticize you. Freedom has spread all over Europe.

[Husayn] If you go through the Iraqi newspapers, you will find the following statement by Saddam Husayn: Write without restriction or hesitation and without any fear that the government will be either satisfied or dissatisfied with what you write. I believe this was said in 1979 and we still emphasize it.

[Sawyer] Can the Iraqis demonstrate against you as in the United States or other countries?

[Husayn] Yes, a peaceful demonstration may take place, but not in the American way. People come to the Council of Ministers to criticize a government decision, saying it harms them. We meet them, listen to them, and take the necessary measures at the presidential or party level. Regarding the American or the French way, we would like to ask: Did the United States give the same liberties it gives now when it was at a developmental stage comparable to the one Iraq is in now socially, educationally, and economically?

[Sawyer] The American Revolution was based on the freedom of speech, free taxation, and democratic liberties.

[Husayn] Yes, you, as an educated American journalist, know that the United States achieved this after it was united through blood, battle, and a lengthy civil war. If you had given liberties to those who did not want America to unite, America would not have united.

Therefore, any criteria should emerge from its own circumstances. What is good for the United States may not be good for Sudan, and what is good for France may not be good for Iraq. However, there are joint human bridges of understanding and behavior.

At this stage in Iraq, laws will take their time according to the Constitution, and laws will guarantee participation in authority. Public and private liberties will also enjoy a greater scope.

[Sawyer] When?

[Husayn] This year, God willing.

[Sawyer] Has the Irangate affair changed your opinion of Americans completely?

[Husayn] No.

[Sawyer] Do you believe that President Bush is responsible, or President Reagan?

[Husayn] We still hope for many positive things from the American people. Every nation has its good side, even if some of its other aspects are criticized. We in Iraq do not hold Mr. Bush responsible for what happened in Irangate and it is our right, after being exposed to that conspiracy, to scrutinize what is said and to shun any initiatives that remind us of the Irangate conspiracy. Therefore, President Bush has the huge responsibility of making us forget what happened during Reagan's term. Whether the Zionist lobby or the U.S. Congress will help him or not, only time will tell.

[Sawyer] It was very generous of you, Mr. President, to offer Iran aid after the earthquake disaster.

[Husayn] It is not generosity, but a humanitarian duty. I believe that humanitarian cooperation should be established for major events such as epidemics and environmental disasters.

[Sawyer] Concerning your expected meeting with Hashemi-Rafsanjani, do you believe that meeting will mark a new era in which we should not expect a new war?

[Husayn] Both Iraq and Iran, although a meeting has not yet taken place between the two presidents, say there will be no return to war. However, it is natural that when a meeting takes place between leaders, we hope it will yield clear procedural arrangements that make war a thing of the past. This is what both we and the Iranians are working for.

[Sawyer] Mr. President, is there anything on your mind, anything specific, you wish to tell the American people, or something you want them to know about Iraq?

[Husayn] I wish the Americans further prosperity and good-will along with humility toward others; I hope they remember the rights of others while enjoying their own rights; when they feel their power, I hope they do not use it against others; and I hope they will always remember that God is the mightiest, that the real strength of the powerful always lies in their values and good, humanitarian behavior toward others, and that a superpower cannot be a superpower without finding someone to cooperate with it from among the small and medium states.

If all these facts are ignored, then they will inevitably fall to a lower level. We do not wish such a tumble for America or any other state in the world. We do not bear grudges. We look to the future and benefit from the past with good wishes.

[Sawyer] What is the greatest sin a human being could possibly commit?

[Husayn] When he forgets that God is more powerful than the strongest force on earth and that the most important power on earth, after what we have said, is humanitarian power; that is the humanity of the human being and not the force of his weapons or muscle.

[Sawyer] Do you believe that in five years' time we will still be discussing the same Middle East issues, or do you believe they could change?

[Husayn] I am optimistic. I believe things will change for the better. The small countries can reach peace quickly if they avoid the evil of the large ones. Therefore, we hope the big ones will enjoy peace with the end of the cold war and remember the peace process for other people, including the people of the Middle East.

[Sawyer] Mr. President, we thank you greatly for this opportunity in which you have told the American people many things they did not know. We thank you immensely for this opportunity.

[Husayn] I am very happy with this meeting and its frankness. And thanks to you, the journalist, for this opportunity of addressing the American people. This is because we believe that dialogue is the best way to truth. Thank you very much.

[Sawyer] Thank you.

AL-THAWRAH Comments

JN0107203790 Baghdad INA in English 0950 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 1, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily has said today that Iraq's response was and is still clear in confirming its retaliation for any Zionist aggression, considering it unreasonable to let any Zionist attack against the Arabs pass with impunity.

In an article on the interview made by the American Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) with President Saddam Husayn, the daily added that when Iraq announced its determination to strike back in case of any Zionist aggression, it reiterated its legitimate right to self-defence as an independent sovereign state.

Referring to the question of peace, the daily said that Iraq had expressed its adherence to peace with words and deeds.

It further said that President Husayn stressed that only peace could bring benefit for all, and that the practical steps to achieve such peace should be based on dealing

with the developments prudently and freeing the region from all mass-destruction weapons.

On the Palestinian issue, the daily said that motivated by its national conviction, Iraq assumed a clear and firm stance viewing the Palestinian cause as the central Arab issue.

AL-THAWRAH made it clear that the interview represented a good opportunity for the American public opinion in particular and the world in general to know the facts as they are, away from any fabrication or misinterpretation practised by Zionist propaganda and media in an attempt to realize its goals through preparing a favourable climate for an act of aggression against Iraq or the Arab nation.

Bush Sends Saddam Congratulations on 'Id Al-Adha

JN0107183090 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 1, Ina—President Saddam Husayn received a telegram of congratulations from President George Bush of the United States on the occasion of al-Adha 'Id [as received].

President Bush said in his cable "I am pleased to send you, your family and the people of Iraq the best wishes on the al-Adha 'Id and sincerely wish that the Iraqi people enjoys the blessings of health, prosperity and peace with all their friends and neighbours."

"Let us work together with the spirit of affection to realise the goals of peace and stability in the region with my best wishes," the telegram said.

Minister Returns, Issues Statement on Euphrates

JN3006052090 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud gave a statement to INA upon his return to Baghdad from Ankara last evening after taking part in the meetings of the second session of the three-way ministerial committee made up of Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. He said the committee, which over two days discussed the distribution of the Euphrates waters among the three countries, failed to reach agreement on the issue. He added that the Iraqi delegation put forward fair proposals in line with international laws and conventions in this respect with a view to reducing the harm inflicted on Iraq as a result of the water shortage in the Euphrates basin. These proposals included a request to increase the amount of water released by the Ataturk Dam so that Iraq can receive 700 cubic meters per second instead of the current 500 cubic meters per second, which fail to satisfy the requirements of the Iraqi regions along the Euphrates.

Shamir Letter Details Autonomy Arrangements

TA0107194290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Authority in the sphere of taxation and a strong police force are only some of the points Israel will be willing to cede to self-rule in the territories after the establishment of autonomy. In a letter to President Bush sent at the end of last week, the prime minister expressed the hope that together with the United States, Israel will be able to make progress toward a settlement of its conflict with the Palestinians and the Arab countries. Our political correspondent reports that Mr. Shamir's letter included a rider restating the authorities to be granted to Palestinians in the framework of autonomy. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin reports from the studio:

After the elections in the territories—if these are indeed held—and after negotiations with the elected Palestinians, Israel intends to adhere to the commitments on full autonomy [previous two words in English] it made in the Camp David accords. In an appendix to his letter to George Bush, Yitzhaq Shamir reiterates the long-forgotten proposals Israel made as long as eight years ago—before Egypt discontinued the autonomy talks.

Among other issues, the document discusses the management by the Palestinians of the judicial system; authority in the spheres of agriculture, industry, trade, and tourism; and Palestinian responsibility for finances, including tax collection in the territories, as well as for education, including the universities. The appendix also mentions a strong police force to be operated by the Palestinians themselves, as well as the running of prisons.

Mr. Shamir reminds the Americans that the Cabinet's peace initiative aims at achieving an interim arrangement—the autonomy—before conducting negotiations on the final settlement. As far as Mr. Shamir is concerned, however, it is clear that all the above is being offered to residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—which means that it is not being offered to East Jerusalem Arabs—and, naturally, not to the PLO. Hence the readiness voiced in the letter for an encounter with Palestinian representatives who will be elected from a list of names not comprising East Jerusalem residents and deportees. Washington must now decide whether this reply is to be defined as affirmative.

In a meeting with German journalists today, Mr. Shamir noted that, in addition to the United States, Egypt, too, has an important role in promoting the peace process, as Egypt would not wish to remain the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel.

U.S. Reaction Termed 'Positive'

TA0107064290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] In contacts between Israeli and U.S. Administration officials in Washington, the Americans asked for clarifications about Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's reply to President Bush. Officials in Jerusalem note that the initial reactions to the message are positive, and that President Bush's remarks were not directed at Israel. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

President Bush's remarks over the weekend make it plain that even after Shamir's reply it is still necessary to take action toward promoting the political process. President Bush's remarks that he will examine alternatives for promoting the political process should not be interpreted as criticizing Israel, political sources in Jerusalem say. According to these sources, Bush's statements highlight the strong desire of the United States to promote the process, but do not suggest any practical steps at this stage.

Over the last few days Israeli representatives have been in contact with U.S. Administration officials. The latter asked for additional clarifications and explanations about the prime minister's letter. It has been learned that the initial U.S. reactions to the letter are definitely positive, and that the Americans see it as providing a certain opening for making progress.

Israel insists on its position that the Palestinian delegation should be composed on a name-by-name basis. Israeli Ambassador Moshe Arad, who is currently in Israel, met with Prime Minister Shamir on Friday. Arad briefed Shamir on the state of relations with the United States, and his meeting with Secretary Baker which, it should be emphasized, took place before Shamir delivered his reply to Washington.

Shamir on Gratitude to U.S., Egypt's Role

TA0207092790 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 2 Jul 90

["Excerpts" of statements made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at a meeting with German journalists on 1 July—"communicated in English by the Prime Minister's media adviser"]

[Text] In my letter to President Bush, I explained in depth my position and our belief that together with the U.S. we will be able to come nearer to the peace solution in our area, and I am grateful to the U.S. for its readiness to continue our common efforts in order to reach a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Arab world and the Palestinians. I am grateful to the U.S. for the readiness to cooperate with us in order to get peace. It is our intention to bring change in the relationship between Israel and the Arab states and Israel with the Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. We believe a change in the relationship between Israel and the Arab states will have a positive influence on a possible understanding and agreement between us and the Palestinians.

Egypt has to play a very important role because Egypt is the only country that has a peace treaty with us, and it is clear that it is in the interest of Egypt not to be the only country in the Arab world with a peace relationship with

us, and we would like to see Egypt as a partner in the continuing peace process in the Middle East.

U.S. Reportedly Asks Mubarak To Meet Shamir

TA0207050390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office says Yitzhaq Shamir has not received any U.S. request for a meeting with Egyptian President Mubarak. This is in response to reports that the U.S. Administration had asked Egypt to set up such a meeting, in what appears to be a new effort to revive the Middle East peace process. More from Ya'aqov Rosenberg:

U.S. President George Bush has asked Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to consider a meeting with Prime Minister Shamir. In a letter to the Egyptian leader, President Bush says such a meeting will bring about a real advance in the peace process.

The letter was delivered by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, who returned to Cairo from Washington yesterday.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said Shamir did not receive any such request from Bush. They said the prime minister would respond to such a proposal only if, and when, he receives such a suggestion from the U.S. President.

Sources in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry also say that Bush proposes holding talks between representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Syria to prepare a way for a meeting of the countries' leaders under the auspices of the United States.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 2 July in a similar report adds that "regarding this suggestion, sources in the prime minister's bureau said that it is well known that Mr. Shamir prefers personal meetings in order to further ideas and achieve agreement, but has not yet received any such proposal."]

U.S. Sources Say Baker, Levi To Meet in Europe

TA0107093890 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jul 90 p A1

[Report from Washington by Ran Dagoni, and by Ilan Bachar]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is contemplating a holding a meeting between Secretary of State James Baker and his Israeli counterpart David Levi this month.

Washington sources told MA'ARIV yesterday that the administration plans to hold the meeting in Europe, probably in July. Meanwhile, the administration is shunning an official invitation for Levi to visit Washington.

Ilan Bachar reports:

The foreign minister's bureau reported last night that the office knows nothing about such a meeting.

U.S. Position on Delegates Seen as Obstacle

TA0107073390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 90 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Text] In the wake of Shamir's message to Bush, Jerusalem expressed its concern over the weekend that Washington's unequivocal demand that East Jerusalem Palestinians be included in the Palestinian delegation to Cairo will constitute a stumbling block to attempts to promote the peace process.

Political circles in Jerusalem expect the United States to submit a list of Palestinian candidates for the delegation to the Cairo talks soon. It appears, from contacts held over the weekend between Jerusalem and Washington, that while the White House staff suggests asking Israel for additional clarifications of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's letter, the State Department emphasizes the need to work out the practical moves for the next few days.

The assessment is that the U.S. Administration will latch on to Shamir's declaration that he is prepared to talk to Palestinian residents of the territories who will be chosen on an individual basis, not according to set criteria.

That is why Jerusalem expects the United States to come up with a list of residents of the territories that will also include the names of some persons who temporarily reside overseas, but who can be regarded as residents of the territories. Jerusalem officials pointed out that this list would allow the Americans to leave the door open to the inclusion of East Jerusalemites who appear in the West Bank population register.

The Americans will hold contacts with Egypt this week to get its reaction and that of the PLO to these ideas. In parallel, Israel may be asked to provide its view on new administration ideas for guarantees that the United States will not force it to talk to the PLO, or conduct negotiations with a delegation unacceptable to Israel.

This week high-level consultations will be held in Jerusalem, which will include the ambassadors from Washington and Cairo, plus Israel's representative in Moscow.

Levi Interviewed, Discusses U.S. Relations

TA2906111490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT Supplement) in Hebrew 29 Jun 90 pp 3, 20

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Dan Shilon; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shilon] David Levi, how are you feeling?

[Levi] Fine.

[Shilon] How is the heart?

[Levi] The doctors say it is beating well.

[Shilon] May I ask you difficult questions?

[Levi] Certainly. Everything is open.

[Shilon] I am referring to the Baker questions.

[Levi] Yes. Israel has initiated a process, and it involves chances and risks....

[Shilon] So far, you have not looked at the initiative's chances; you have only pointed out the risks.

[Levi] True, I have pointed to the risks, and even today I see several problems which have not been worked out. I will continue pointing out the dangers until we find answers and reach a solid understanding with the United States.

[Shilon] Does this mean that the Israeli Government's political initiative is, in fact, dead?

[Levi] There is no need to talk in terms of life and death. I say "yes" to the peace process, "yes" to talks with the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, "yes" to the Israeli desire to change the situation.

[Shilon] Your "yeses" are in fact "nos" to the political initiative of the Israeli Government.

[Levi] I do not accept that. My "nos" are only "no" to the questions that call for a "yes or no" answer to Baker. In fact, Baker's questions are additions he coordinated with Egypt and the PLO.

[Shilon] So you are saying "no" to Baker.

[Levi] I am telling Baker: "Yes" to ending the freeze and continuing the process and "no" to the questions that were, in fact, PLO demands. I want to make it clear once and for all: Our discussions with the United States must be an open, sincere, and honest dialogue. They cannot present us with a fait accompli; that is no dialogue, nor is it coordination between allies.

[Shilon] We and the United States are not exactly equal allies, and James Baker is not buying your "yes and no."

[Levi] I do not know whether he buys it; I also do not know exactly what he wants.

[Shilon] Why not ask him? He gave you a phone number through the media....

[Levi] The United States is a superpower, but Israel is not its satellite. We will not accept dictates, and we will not give in on issues that are essential to our future and our existence.

[Shilon] Interestingly, the U.S. Administration has the impression that we are treating it as our satellite. Why must it provide us with such generous aid, while we try to be smart alecks and avoid replying to its questions?

[Levi] The United States supports a Palestinian state and the PLO. For us, this is a matter of existence. We will not give in on this issue; we will even not discuss it. I know our limitations, but we were not given anything for free or as a favor. It is worth remembering that there was a time when we acted as a buffer against the storms and tempests that threatened U.S. interests and the free world in general.

[Shilon] That is history. Today we are perceived in the United States as a burden, perhaps even a parasite.

[Levi] I do not accept these terms. Israel is no burden to the United States; it is certainly no parasite. We have a legitimate disagreement.

[Shilon] But we cannot even argue with the United States. We have lost the meeting points for discussion. The U.S. secretary of state refuses to invite you.

[Levi] I am not standing and pleading: Please invite me. As time went by, ministers and public figures here created some sort of thesis according to which an invitation to Egypt or the United States is an end in itself.

[Shilon] How will you reach a dialogue with the United States without an invitation?

[Levi] I am certain that they also want to talk to us. With all due respect, no peace can be made without Israel. That is why the Israeli Government is not standing in front of some door waiting for someone to do us a favor, open it, and talk to us.

We have a lot to say. Our desire for peace is no cliche; it is a true attitude. Still, we have to be careful and look after our security.

[Shilon] It seems that the United States has stopped believing this. It treats you and your government in a contemptuous and insulting manner through public politics.

[Levi] I am aware of that. I am no ostrich. But the United States is, first and foremost, hurting itself. It is not creating an openness of basic understanding between us. We are trying, but we will not flinch or crawl to the United States. We truly want friendly relations with it, but we will not keep quiet when it comes to dangers waiting on our doorstep.

We will not stand by and watch with indifference while extremely lethal weapons are being supplied to countries and regimes that might direct them against us. The United States has its own considerations for doing that, but we will not keep quiet. We will not be good little boys and will not accept anyone dictating to us how to run our lives and reminding us that we are small and dependent. At the same time, if we remove issues of prestige from our agenda, we could reach basic understandings with the United States. The basis for this understanding should be safeguarding our vital needs.

[Shilon] In fact, you are trying to portray yourself as a wolf in sheep's clothing.

[Levi] You can use all sorts of imagery. One can also say that I am an extremist. I am only being fanatic about my country and people. I know the area. I also know what weakness is. We have no choice; when it comes to vital issues, we must stand strong. I hate wars, but one does not enter a jungle of carnivorous beasts carrying a copy of "War and Peace." [passage omitted]

[Shilon] Are you still dreaming of becoming prime minister?

[Levi] This is not a dream. I make no attempts to hide my aspirations in that direction. When asked whether I want to reach the premiership through my struggles and gradual advancement, I reply outright: Yes. Only time will tell whether I will succeed. [passage omitted]

Commentary Evaluates Government's Policy on U.S.

TA2906135590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jun 90 p B1

[Commentary by A. Schweitzer: "No Longer a Dispute Between Friends"]

[Text] There is a fear that in the not too distant future our leader will have to come up with a new formula. The prime minister used to term our disagreements with the United States as differences of opinions between friends. According to recent statements, the disagreements are still here; as for the friendship, doubts overcome certainties.

It has been stated in this column that newly appointed Foreign Minister David Levi cannot be suspected of being moderate. Leaving the hospital last week, Levi did not choose polite words in charging the United States with adopting PLO slogans. Thus, he provoked two remarks: The one is the fact that he is wrong. The other is that only a politician dying to be called "senior," but lacking the tools to be so, could raise a white flag right at the onset of the campaign he is heading. The fact that the remarks were phrased in the proud Jewish style to say "up yours!" to the pretentious gentile is unimportant.

Even those whom the gods strike blind want to appear sharp-eyed. Accordingly, Shamir is trying to put a semi-rational guise on his indefatigable efforts toward destroying U.S.-Israeli relations. It can be expected, he says—and the choir of his blind followers repeats—that Israel would face an elemental danger if it evacuates the areas in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza which are densely populated by Arabs. Nevertheless, the nature of this danger has not yet been detailed, and no mention has been made of the political and military reasons for it to come about—and rightfully so. Because had an attempt been made to describe this horrible sight, it would have been found to be a scarecrow. It is not the distance between the Jordan River and the Green Line that will save Israel. It can only be saved—if Shamir and company will not destroy the chances—thanks to the IDF [Israel Defense Force], the tight cooperation—or what appears to be cooperation—with the United States, and the strategic deterrent ability. All the rest, the territories included, is but icing on the cake.

Perhaps this is an exaggeration, but more often than not there is an impression that Shamir is untying the link with the United States—his supporters might admit that at the least he is endangering it—only to have a free hand in his squabbling with the miserable Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip who are being eaten away by Tunisia, the settlers, the relatively moderate IDF, and the Israeli Government. This move is not to be understood as an expression of sympathy for them. It is possible that for those who call themselves the "national camp," the pleasure of suppressing the Arabs is worth any price, including our cutoff from the United States and the expansion of the rift with Europe. It is possible, alas not certain, that had these figures admitted publicly that this is their motive, they would have been expelled from their offices. Therefore, just to make certain, we have been hearing the tall tales about the strategic value of—heaven have mercy—the West Bank.

U.S. policy is more consistent in its direction than would appear at first glance. Bush is a projection of Carter, minus the glory of the achievement entailed in Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. (Incidentally, one should bear in mind that Democrat Carter had to make good on his commitments to his constituents, whereas that does not apply to Bush.) In other words, it is not Bush but rather the Reagan-Haig-Shultz intermezzo that was out of line. The current administration is unique in terms of the President's personal disaffection, which grew in the wake of what he regarded as Prime Minister Shamir's recurring attempts to mislead him. To put it plainly, this is what we have to live with: Bush (plus Baker) as is, and Shamir (plus Levi) as is. Only time will tell how important the personal factor is, but one should beware of being overly optimistic.

I am not saying this only because I am familiar with the main protagonists. Anybody following what is being written and said in U.S. media will discern a tone toward Israel ranging from reproachful to hostile, which is occasionally countered by a similar tone in our media. The leaders read and hear those words, and this only increases the reasons and tones of speech conducive to a break. In an article in HA'ARETZ last Wednesday, Abba Eban lamented the opportunity missed to reach an agreement with the Arabs. Whatever one's opinion may be on the essence and worth of such an agreement, there can be no dispute about the essence and nature of the link to the United States. For the sake of it, Israel must be nice to its neighbors, or at least appear to be so. It is to be hoped that they will understand that this link has a vital value. If Shamir and Levi cannot grasp this truth and act accordingly, however, it would be best to replace them before they provide President Bush with cause to act on his personal inclinations.

UK Foreign Office Denies 'Arafat Invited

TA0107065690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 90 p 8

[Report by Douglas Davis]

[Text] London—A British Foreign Office spokesman yesterday denied that there were plans to invite PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to visit London for a meeting with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Commenting on Israeli media reports that Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave had informed Jerusalem Palestinian Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi that 'Arafat would visit London, the spokesman told THE POST he knew nothing about "the alleged invitation."

Waldegrave and al-Tibi had a general exchange of views on the peace process late last week, he said.

On the eve of a two-nation Arab tour last month, Hurd announced that he would meet with 'Arafat if this would advance the peace process.

Political sources in London said European leaders would seek ways of increasing their demonstration of support for 'Arafat, who they believe has been left "dangerously exposed to extremist elements" in his organization by the collapse of the PLO's dialogue with the U.S.

UN Envoy Jean Claude Aime Continues Mission

Visits Nabulus, Camps, Villages

TA0107074490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 90 p 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Masked Palestinian activists at Bayt Furik near Nabulus greeted visiting UN envoy Jean Claude Aime on Friday with a paramilitary march in which they burned the Israeli flag, according to reports from the village.

Residents complained to Aime about curfews, closures, and other IDF [Israel Defense Force] measures against the village, which has been a hotbed of unrest and the site of two public lynchings of alleged "collaborators." Aime was shown demolished homes and youths wounded during the uprising and given a memorandum outlining the villagers' grievances.

Aime spent most of the day in Nabulus, where he visited the Balatah refugee camp, spoke to residents in the casbah, and met with officials at Ittihad al-Nisa'i Hospital, where many initifada casualties are treated.

He also met with a group of prominent local figures, including Shahir Sa'id, head of the General Federation of Labor Unions in the West Bank, businessman Mahir al-Masri, and al-Najah University professor Sami Kilani. Sa'id said the group had appealed for international protection for Palestinians in the territories and urged that a representative of the International Labour Organization be stationed permanently in East Jerusalem or the West Bank.

Aime met on Thursday with Bethlehem mayor Ilyas Frayj and the mayor of Bayt Sahour, Hanna al-Atrash.

Confers With Settler Delegation

TA0107122490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] At its request, a delegation on behalf of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza conferred with UN Assistant Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime in Jerusalem this morning in order to discuss the human rights situation in the territories.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the delegates pointed out that they represent 100,000 Jewish inhabitants, who constitute a factor that cannot be ignored. They said they hoped this fact would be taken into account in all international deliberations about the future of the region.

Our correspondent points out that this is the first time that a delegation of Jewish inhabitants of the territories has conferred with an official UN representative. According to them, Mr. Aime admitted that reports about the situation arriving at the United Nations are unbalanced, and he proposed to start a dialogue with the UN offices in New York. The settlers accepted Aime's proposal.

Shamir, Finnish Minister Disagree on Settlements

TA3006143290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Upon the conclusion of his visit to Israel, the Finnish foreign minister stated that during his tour there had been disagreement on essential issues, noting the settlements in the territories and the treatment of Palestinians.

In an interview with a Finnish news agency correspondent, Foreign Minister Pertii Paasio said that his meetings with Prime Minister Shamir had been informative, but that no agreement was reached regarding the transit of Soviet Jews through Helsinki. Paasio asserted that Israel had not accepted Finland's demand that Jewish immigrants be given the right to choose their destination freely.

Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi reports that the Finnish minister invited David Levi, his Israeli counterpart, to visit Finland.

Shamir Calls on Mubarak To Cooperate on Peace

TA0207114290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that President Mubarak should take the initiative and work with us to create stability in the region. Our political

correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a meeting with a delegation of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, headed by Senator Harry Reed, the prime minister further said that only a leader such as Mubarak—who is so well liked by his own people and the residents of the Middle East—can advance peace while cooperating with Israel.

The prime minister also said that we must work in full cooperation with President Bush and the United States, which is a close friend of ours, to attain peace. Referring to disagreements with the U.S. Administration, Shamir said that there have been occasional differences of opinion between Israel and the United States in the past as well, but if we work together in cooperation we will be able to overcome the obstacles as we have in the past.

Ben-Aharon on Elections, Egypt Role in Talks

TA2806181090 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Shlomo Ganor and Eli Nisan; place and date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ganor] According to the peace initiative, when the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue opens, it will have to deal with the procedures of elections. I would like to suggest, why not skip the phase of elections and hold practical talks about the future of the territories with those figures from the territories who are already an elected representation?

[Ben-Aharon] There are those who think along those lines, and I am not saying it is impossible. But I would like once more to address the Arab population—those who know us, who have been watching us for the past 22 years. They see how we are conducting our political life: We live in a democracy which is an integral part of our world view—why should this not be done with them too? No one is saying we do not want democracy among the Arab population.

[Ganor] Meaning that, in any event, elections will be held in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Ben-Aharon] Sooner or later they will. This is written in the Camp David accords. With your permission, let me tell you one more thing. We all know that there is no democracy or free elections in any Arab country in the Middle East. This is perhaps what adds another aspect to the hostility against us and even fear of us, because for tyrannical Arab leaders, a democracy means a threat. We can find evidence for this in the fact that several of those Arab tyrants—whose name I do not wish to mention—have expressed their concern over the fall of totalitarian regimes in East Europe.

[Ganor] Mr. Ben-Aharon, I would like to bring up the Egyptian role. We heard this morning that the prime minister sent a letter to President Mubarak. Can you confirm this?

[Ben-Aharon] I do not want to say anything about your sources.

[Ganor] Just the fact...

[Ben-Aharon] I suggest that we not rely so much on Radio Monte Carlo. It is not a reliable source. There was a letter, and it was sent a while ago.

[Nisan] How does Jerusalem view Egypt's role in advancing the peace process?

[Ben-Aharon] It has a very important role. This is because, first, it has relations of peace with Israel. Second, it is a leading country in the Arab world. Third, we and Egypt maintain very close relations with the United States, which is the leading superpower in the Middle East and the peace process. Fourth, and most important: For many years, ever since the Camp David agreements and the peace treaty were signed, Egypt has been hesitant about tightening its relations with us, claiming that this is limiting its ability to develop its relations with the Arab world. They told us: Look at what happened to us since Camp David; we have been punished; we are paying a price. And look at what happens today. Where is Egypt now? Egypt is not just a leading country, it is the leader of the Arab world. Leaders who in the past refused to come to Cairo as long as an Israeli flag flies above the Israeli Embassy are now doing so. So, what is the fear? That is why we are expecting Egypt to come with us, strengthen bilateral relations, and with us lead the peace process.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, we spoke about the Egyptian role. Is Jerusalem rethinking the Jordanian role in advancing the political process? What is Jordan's role today?

[Ben-Aharon] Jordan, too, is important. Jordan is, first of all, a state of Palestinians. The majority of the population is Palestinian. There are families who are split between here and there. It is clear, therefore, that Jordan must be a partner to any process that would lead to an arrangement, if only because of this human aspect of the Palestinian community. We have always had relations with Jordan. It was in a state of war with us, while now we have a de facto peace. There are open bridges between us and Jordan. We regret the fact that the Jordanian king sees it right to accuse us of groundless things. There is no Israeli threat to Jordan. There is no Israeli intention to hurt the king or his kingdom. Why does he need to appeal to the Arab world and call Israel a threat? Instead we are offering that they start talking to us and see if we can reach an understanding.

[Ganor] The basis for the Jordanian king's fears are remarks made here and there by certain Israeli figures about settling new immigrants in the territories, and the

Jordanian fear of turning the east bank of the Jordan River into an alternative homeland for the Palestinians.

[Ben-Aharon] This is simply a groundless accusation. It is an artificial creation. Let me remind our Arab cousins that they opposed the arrival of Jews in the 1920's, thirties, and forties. This means that they are simply against any demographic strengthening of Israel. We suggest that they get off this issue, because opposition to aliya is opposition to the existence of the State of Israel. This is how we will view it. It is a threat against us. There is also the so-called practical aspect of the issue, which says: It is inevitable; so many Jews will come and settle in what they call Palestine, in Eretz Yisra'el, that as a result there will be an emigration of the Arabs east to Jordan. This, too, is groundless. This was already said by the British in 1939. There was a British expert who said that there is no room in Eretz Yisra'el for even a cat. Well, not only a cat, but tens of thousands have entered Israel. I am inviting the Jordanian king to fly with me over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and see how much space there is still left—and not only there, but also all over Israel—where Jews could be settled. We will appropriate no Arab's land.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, if this is the case, what is the source of King Husayn's fears?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that what motivates him is not fear of Israel. He can turn his back to us and no one would hurt him, nor his kingdom and family. I believe that his reason is linked with his relations with the Arab world. Unfortunately, among Arab leaders there is a tendency, and it is not new, to use Israel as an instrument in inter-Arab struggles. The one who is more anti-Israeli is considered a leader by the other Arabs, and as such he can get things. Or he could present himself as someone who is about to be attacked or is facing a threat—one that he makes artificially—and appeals to the others to get one or another kind of assistance from the Arab countries. I ask and recommend that the Arab world put an end to this, otherwise we will make no progress toward an agreement.

[Ganor] These are the hopes, but Iraq's president last night and for the past two weeks has been threatening Israel. Last week the Syrians ended a large military drill. Israel has made it clear that it has no intentions of aggression, and you are doing the same. The question is: What is the reason for this Arab excitement recently? Is it because a new government with a certain characteristic was set up in Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe there are two excuses that the Arab leaders, headed by Saddam Husayn, are making. One is aliya, and the other is this or another government. They are both artificial and lacking any basis. There is no political element in Israel that does not want peace. There is no Israeli citizen who does not want peace regardless of the composition of the government. There is no threat to the Arab countries as a result of Jewish immigration to Eretz Yisra'el. What motivates Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad is, again, linked to inter-Arab relations. The one who wants to lead the Arab world has to be the hero who knows, can, and is able to prove that he can beat Israel.

[Nisan] Perhaps more Israeli clarifications are needed?

[Ben-Aharon] We have been repeating it like a broken record. We have no aggressive intentions against the Arab world as a whole or against any Arab country in particular. If we have conducted any military operation against an Arab element, as we have in the past, it was always in retaliation for an Arab attack against us.

[Nisan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, last week the prime minister sent a letter to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev on not settling immigrants in the territories. Do you think that the letter and its contents will satisfy the Soviets?

[Ben-Aharon] We have some form of relations with the USSR. It is not the one we want to have: normal, with full diplomatic relations. The Soviet regime has its reasons, and we hope this anomaly will end soon. In this system of relations there are exchanges, such as letters. True, a letter was sent from Prime Minister Shamir to President Gorbachev. It was a letter of goodwill which refers to the whole of our relations with the USSR, and includes the issue of Jewish emigration. We view positively the USSR's opening its gates, and see it as a normal thing. We have also answered several concerns expressed by Soviet leaders concerning Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Nisan] Do you think this will satisfy Moscow?

[Ben-Aharon] I suggest you ask Moscow. If it is an excuse, then there is no end to excuses; they can always find new ones. If their concern is real, we have provided replies by the prime minister, the construction and housing minister, and others. [passage omitted]

Prisoner Swap Deal With PLO Reportedly Reached

JN3006181890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] It was learned from Israeli sources in Tel Aviv today that the PLO and Israel have recently agreed to a prisoner swap deal that will soon be concluded. Here is a report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah, our correspondent in the occupied territories.

[Begin recording] According to the sources, the deal, on which progress has been made over the past few months, stipulates the release of about 2,000 Palestinians who have already served several years of their long-term or even life sentences in Israeli jails for security reasons. According to the sources, the PLO and leaders of prisoners in Israeli jails are currently preparing lists of those included in the swap. This was confirmed by the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT today [as heard].

It will be recalled that the last prisoner swap between the PLO and Israel took place in May 1985, during which

1,050 Palestinian prisoners were released in exchange for three Israeli soldiers captured by Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command during the war in Lebanon.

In another development, several Palestinian prisoners who have served most of their prison terms or those arrested for the first time, are expected to be released from Israeli jails as of tomorrow, Sunday. Their release comes in the context of what the Israeli sources termed as facilities for the Palestinians in accordance with a decision taken by Defense Minister Moshe Arens, who said these facilities should not be exploited by the Palestinians to escalate violence. About 10,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails on charges of participating in anti-Israeli activities. [end recording]

PLO Said Seeking New Commitment From U.S.

TA0107145090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Excerpts] PLO leaders are meeting in Tunis today to reassess their policies in the wake of recent developments, mainly the suspension of the dialogue with the United States. [passage omitted]

PLO representatives to the Israeli-Palestinian encounter held in Stockholm last weekend told the Israeli delegates that the PLO leadership does not intend to resort to sanctions against Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] in return for a resumption of the dialogue with Washington. According to them, the PLO leadership is now demanding that the U.S. Administration provide a commitment totally different from the one supplied in previous talks, and even to upgrade the level of talks between the two parties.

The encounter's Israeli participants, including Knesset Member Dedi Zucker and former Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir, were under the impression that the PLO has not closed the door on attempts to negotiate with the Likud government.

Palestinians Return From Egyptian Camp to Gaza

TA0107074090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 90 p 8

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv—The first two families of Palestinian refugees that Israel resettled in the Sinai before its withdrawal are today expected to move to their new homes at Tall al-Sultan in the southern Gaza Strip.

Five more families are expected to follow them within two or three months, a government source told THE JERUSALEM POST on Friday.

The refugees are the first of 478 families which had lived in the Rafah refugee camp, but were resettled in Camp Canada in 1974.

The peace agreement with Egypt led to the separation of Egyptian Rafah and Camp Canada from the Gaza Strip. During those negotiations Israel suggested a minor exchange of territory to keep all residents in one area, but the Egyptians insisted on a return to the old border.

The Israeli-Egyptian accords provided, however, that the Camp Canada refugees be allowed back. Last year the two countries agreed on the details, which provided that groups of 35 family heads, including one or two children in each family, cross to Tall al-Sultan to build their new homes.

The first group arrived this January, with each family receiving $8,000 from the Egyptian authorities to begin construction. While a lack of funds and other problems delayed construction, the first two families have finished their homes and are expected at the Nizzana crossing point at 9 a.m. today.

Once the first 35 families cross, another group of 35 family heads will be allowed in. Israeli officials expect the entire process to take seven or eight years.

Security authorities have been concerned about the Palestinians' hostility and reports that the PLO ran training camps in Camp Canada. Gush Qatif settlers have also been campaigning not to let them in. As a precaution, Israel has made it clear that the returnees have no immunity from prosecution.

Army Releases 470 Arab Prisoners for 'Id Al-Adha

TA0107142590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] On the occasion of 'Id al-Adha, the IDF [Israel Defense Force] today released 470 Arab prisoners. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that 325 prisoners are from Judaea and Samaria, and the rest are residents of Gaza. All the prisoners were serving brief sentences of a few months each.

Families of Rishon Leziyyon Victims Compensated

TA2906111890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jun 90 p A2

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] A few days ago, the families of the seven Arab laborers who were murdered in Rishon Leziyyon were awarded a one-time grant of 40,000 Israeli shekels each.

The checks were delivered by the officer in charge of welfare affairs in the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip. The decision to award a one-time grant was made by a special Civil Administration committee that examined the payment of damages to the families of the victims.

The committee decided to award the families a one-time grant rather than pay them damages so as not to set a

precedent whereby the Israeli Government pays damages to victims of terror attacks by Israelis. The committee initially proposed giving 35,000 shekels to each family, but it was ultimately decided to pay a higher sum.

As for the Arabs wounded in the attack, it was decided not to compensate them. Instead, the Civil Administration will provide them medical care, pay the hospitalization fees in Israeli and Gazan hospitals, and extend social services to their families. Some of the Arabs who were seriously hurt in the attack are still being treated in Israeli hospitals.

This is the first time Israel is paying damages to families of Arabs hurt in terror attacks perpetrated by Israelis. Sources in the defense establishment said that Israel conducted itself fairly in this matter and that the payment of damages was initiated by the defense establishment rather than by the families. Palestinians had in the past said that they would not accept any compensation from Israel, but the families of the victims ultimately decided to accept the money.

Pilgrims Interviewed Through Mecca Telephone Link

TA0107111990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
1 Jul 90 p A3

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] The first Israeli radio interview with a person in Saudi Arabia was held at the end of last week. IDF Radio's 'Adi Talmor interviewed an Israeli Arab pilgrim in Mecca over the telephone. The telephone link between Tel Aviv and Mecca was established through the Solan-Telecommunications international communications center and the interview was broadcast on Saturday on the IDF Radio's "In the Current Situation" program. [passage omitted]

[A similar phone link, via the same method, was used on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1405 GMT on 29 June, with another Israeli Arab who was interviewed by Gid'on Remez on the station's foreign affairs bulletin]

Cabinet Endorses Emergency Housing Decrees

TA0107114890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Good afternoon from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Following a meeting which lasted nearly four hours, the Cabinet endorsed the proposal submitted by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is also the Aliyah Cabinet coordinator, to enforce emergency decrees that would enable the building—or more precisely, the placing—of 3,000 housing units imported from various countries under accelerated construction procedures. The decrees were granted for a period of three months only, and are limited to specific locations throughout the country. Three ministers opposed the proposal: Ministers Der'i and Pinhasi from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and Justice Minister Dan Meridor. Strong opposition was also expressed by Attorney General Yosef Harish, who claimed that the government was not empowered to pass emergency decrees of this kind, and handed out corresponding position papers to the ministers at the start of the session. [passage omitted]

The supporters of the proposal were led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir; Minister Ari'el Sharon, who initiated the issue; Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i; Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz; and Religious Affairs Minister Sciaki—all members in the Aliyah Cabinet. [passage omitted]

Within a week the ministerial committee will hear appeals opposing the decrees that are to be submitted by most of those in the regional councils for planning and construction. Knesset Member Poraz from Shinuy intends to appeal to the High Court of Justice on this matter, and the opponents of this legislation hope the High Court will strike it down.

The Cabinet also approved the appointment of two new deputy ministers: Deputy Finance Minister 'Azran from SHAS, and Knesset Member Goldstein from the Party for the Advancement of the Liberal Ideology in Israel, who will be deputy transport minister.

New Apartment Construction Underway in Settlements

TA0107115190 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
1 Jul 90 p 3

[Report by Yosi Werther]

[Text] "The Government of Israel is currently building hundreds of apartments in the settlements, such as, for instance, the 583 apartments included in the Construction and Housing Ministry's plan for 1990." This was revealed by Knesset Member Yosi Sarid (CRM) [Citizens Rights Movement], a member of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He claims that the construction work began in January, and that these apartments constitute approximately 10 percent of the entire government construction projects.

The building momentum in the territories has been carried out as follows: The Tzavta company is building 52 apartments in Alfey Menashe; the Or 'Avodot company is constructing 80 apartments in Efrat; 'Ir David—20 apartments in Efrat; Sasi—26 apartments in Ma'ale Adumim; Eshdar—305 apartments in Betar; Ben Yaqar-Gat—100 apartments in Ari'el.

Sarid says that Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon's pledge not to direct new immigrants to the territories is only half the truth. "New immigrants may not be overtly directed to the settlements, but old ones forced out of their apartments due to the increasing wave of immigration and the rental apartment crunch will be pushed into the settlements."

Soviet, Overall Immigration Statistics Reported

TA0107123990 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Jul 90 p A8

[Report by Arye Bender]

[Text] "We have received no reports that the Soviets are imposing difficulties on Jews departing for Israel. On the contrary, aliyah is rising week by week. Although May saw a wave of immigration lower by several hundred than the previous month, by the end of June close to 11,000 Jews will have immigrated, after the arrival Thursday of the 10,000th new immigrant."

This was stated two days ago by Jewish Agency Chairman Simha Dinitz at a news conference called to mark the close of the Jewish Agency General Assembly session.

Knesset Member Mikha'el Kleiner, chairman of the Knesset's Immigration and Absorption Committee, claims that the slowdown in the June immigration rate was caused by the crisis over the stoppage of the Hungarian airline Malev's flights, which have subsequently been resumed, plus foot-dragging in negotiations with another East European country.

Kleiner maintains that the Jewish Agency can speed the exiting process from the USSR if it adopts the suggestion raised by official elements that the Jewish Agency offer $1,000 compensation to each immigrant who leaves his belongings in the USSR.

Some 10,642 new immigrants, of whom 9,032 came from the Soviet Union, arrived in Israel in June. So far this year, 55,938 new immigrants have arrived, 48,276 of them from the Soviet Union. This was reported by Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department.

Administration Bars Gaza Leader From U.S. Trip

TA0107070190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 90 p 8

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Text] Gaza Bar Association Chairman Furayh Abu-Mudin was prevented by the Civil Administration from departing on a tour to America, where he has been invited for meetings by Jewish congressmen.

Abu-Mudin told THE JERUSALEM POST last night that it was made clear to him by the IDF [Israel Defense Force] that the sole reason for the prevention of his visit was his position as Bar chairman. "If anyone is democratically elected chairman or president of a body here, he is automatically placed on the black list," he said.

He and a fellow Gaza lawyer, Sharhabil a-Zaem [name as published], were invited at the beginning of April by House of Representatives members, but Abu-Mudin received a final answer a week ago from Arye Schiffman, Gaza Civil Administration head, saying his request for a laissez-passer had been refused.

A senior IDF source said the cause of the travel ban was "security reasons" and added the army spokesman was investigating.

The American Embassy requires a laissez-passer valid for at least six months before it will grant a visa to those wishing to visit the country.

Abu-Mudin's existing laissez-passer was valid for a period of five months. A-Zaem has a similar document valid for eight months.

For the last month, the Bar Association chairman had repeated meetings with Civil Administration officials, following his application for valid papers. He said he received undertakings at first from officials that he would be allowed to leave.

Finally Abu-Mudin received the answer that he would not receive a permit satisfying the American Embassy's requirements, and would therefore not be allowed to leave for the U.S.

Before Abu-Mudin became Bar Association chairman on March 1, 1990, he spent at least a month abroad every year.

Hospital Discharges Foreign Minister Levi

TA0107082190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi was discharged from Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital this morning after being treated for coronary occlusion. His doctors said his condition is satisfactory, and that he will be gradually return to work. Minister Levi is scheduled to confer with the prime minister today.

Finance Official Announces Income Tax Reforms

TA0207103890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jul 90 p 6

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] Income-tax rates were effectively reduced yesterday and, said State Revenue Director Yoram Gabbay, middle-income earners can look forward to more of the same next year.

Tax rates were reduced by several percentage points for low- and middle-income earners: Those earning between NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1,200 and NIS 7,250 monthly will enjoy an extra NIS 7 to NIS 123 in their salary slips.

In addition, the minimum taxable income was raised from NIS 765 to NIS 971 for single wage earners or for married wage earners whose spouses work, and from NIS 1,105 to NIS 1,403 for married wage earners whose spouses do not work. This means that some 130,000 citizens will no longer be required to pay income tax.

Yesterday's reform also reduced company taxes from 45 percent to 42 percent. Gabbay said that he hoped to reduce these taxes by an additional 1 percent next year, and by 2 percent in 1992.

Speaking at a press conference to mark the inauguration of the new tax measures, Gabbay said that the current system of five separate tax brackets ranging from 20 percent to 48 percent would be scrapped in favour of two or three brackets.

He said that under his proposal, those earning up to NIS 5,500 per month—85 percent of the population—would be required to pay an income tax no more than 30 percent. Currently, those earning salaries of this size are taxed at a rate of 45 percent to 48 percent.

"The major block to growth is the lack of incentives in the workplace and the high tax rates for middle-income earners," Gabbay explained. "Tax rates must be reduced."

However, Gabbay said that to make up for the lost income, special tax exemptions enjoyed by certain sectors would be eliminated, and non-income taxes, such as value-added-tax and purchase taxes on certain items, may be increased.

He also said that he hoped to eventually reduce or eliminate the travel tax, employers tax and stamp taxes.

Central Bank Report Shows Economic Revival

TA0207104990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jul 90 p 6

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The economy is showing some signs of revival, according to the Bank of Israel's quarterly report on recent economic developments, issued yesterday.

According to the report, during the first five months of the year, construction activity, tourism and imports of merchandise rose, but industry and services remained stagnant, and industrial exports levelled off.

Preliminary figures for April and May indicate a further increase in tourism, some recovery in trade, further expansion of imports, and the resumption of growth for industrial exports.

During the first five months, imports of industrial inputs and producer durables rose steadily, indicating expectations for recovery. The report attributed the expectations to the increase in the pace of immigration from the Soviet union, and expectations of a further increase in immigration.

On the down side, the labor market remained slack, but the report noted that there are some signs that demand for workers in the business sector is on the rise. Inflation declined in the first quarter of 1990, but rose in April and May and, according to the central bank, there are no signs of any change in the underlying 15 percent to 20 percent inflation rate of the last few years.

In other central bank news yesterday, the Bank of Israel reported a $369 million decrease in foreign currency reserves during June, bringing total reserves down to $4.31 billion. Central bank officials attributed the very large outflow mostly to government activity, including debt repayment. They noted however, that private sector activity during June also contributed to the large outflow.

Finance Minister Discusses New Economic Program

TA0107112690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i this morning disclosed many details of his new economic program to reporters in Jerusalem. It involves a series of structural changes in the public service, reduction of government involvement in the economy, and foreign currency liberalization. Harley Braidman reports:

The Treasury intends to abolish all dollar and wage linkage, carry out a far-reaching reform in agricultural marketing, and implement a new form of accounting with the local authorities on all municipal expenditure. In the public sector, the Treasury intends to cut down considerably the scope of the public service, and pay relatively large wage increases to the remaining staff in accordance with the Sussman Committee recommendations. These include changing the whole wage structure.

As for income tax, in future there will only be three tax grades: Employees earning up to 5,500 shekels gross will pay a maximum tax rate of 30 percent; 85 percent of wage earners will not exceed a marginal tax rate of 35 percent. In the second stage of the income tax reform, the Treasury will abolish a range of exemptions. The loss to the Treasury is estimated at 700 million shekels.

Regarding imports, the Finance Ministry will prevent cartelization, and extend the concessions given to the trading blocs in Europe and the United States to other countries.

The Treasury is also going to legislate new criteria for development areas and radically change the list of settlements receiving exemptions.

Moda'i said no draconian steps would be taken, but he intended to slaughter holy cows even if it involves severe pain. But he did not rule out interim steps to protect state revenue, wages, and the structure of the capital market. He ruled out devaluation and said he did not intend to ask the Histadrut [labor federation] to give up the cost-of-living increment.

Finally, Moda'i said the program had already begun this morning with the introduction of the first stage of the income tax reform.

Over 10 Percent Unemployment Predicted in 3 Months

TA0107131090 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Jul 90 p 11

[Report from Jerusalem by economic affairs correspondent Gad Li'or]

[Text] In three months unemployment will exceed 10 percent, a rate unseen in Israel since the great recession of 1966. This was stated recently in two internal documents drawn up separately in the Industry and Trade Ministry and the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry.

The dire predictions are based on the addition of some 30,000 new immigrants to the labor force by autumn and on an examination of current market trends, which do not indicate an end to the recession or an increase in job offers.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's document even urges speedy measures to avoid such a level of unemployment, noting: "It may still be possible to do so."

The current unemployment rate is estimated at 9.3 to 9.4 percent, or between 150,000 and 160,000 people—the highest rate since the mid 1960's.

'Terrorist' Weapons Smugglers Uncovered in Jericho

TA0107175490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Force] and the security forces recently uncovered a terrorist squad in Jericho. The Fatah-affiliated squad members are suspected of having used vehicles crossing the Damiya Bridge to smuggle weapons from Jordan. The weapons were for use in terrorist attacks to be perpetrated by local Fatah recruits.

One of the squad members is a bus driver whom Fatah had recruited in Jordan eight months ago. The driver, who transported passengers from both sides of the Jordan bridges, is suspected of additional crimes, including relaying messages and written material between local residents and the PLO office in Amman.

It was learned during the investigation that the squad had been abetted by a Jordanian bus driver employed at the Jordanian border checkpoint on Damiya Bridge.

Engineers Warn Against VOA Transmitter Hazards

TA0107154590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] The Voice of America relay station in the 'Arava is liable to disrupt military and civilian aircraft systems totally and to cause plane crashes. This warning was issued by the Israel Association of Aeronautics Engineers in a long and detailed document based on comprehensive tests and international reference materials.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that the document was conveyed this morning to all senior officials in charge of security and transportation, as well as to elements involved in the decision to build the station.

The authors of the document state that they fear the emergence of a computer virus that will use the radio data communications systems to penetrate into army computers and data systems throughout the country.

USSR Proposes United Front Against Israel

NC2906164190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources today revealed a Soviet proposal that a united front of the five Arab states surrounding Israel be established to confront the Israeli practices and the escalation resulting from the formation of an extreme rightist Israeli Government which, in the view of the Soviet Union, constitutes a real threat to security in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, (Ivor Ivochenko), Soviet Embassy charge d'affaires in Lebanon [name and title as received], visited Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry this morning. The Soviet charge d'Affaires unofficialy informed Sutaytiyah that Soviet Ambassador to Lebanbon Vasiliy Kolotusha has been transferred from Beirut to the post of chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, replacing Vladimir Polyakov who has been appointed Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

Ambassador Sutaytiyah described the post to which Ambassador Kolotusha has been transferred at the Soviet Foreign Ministry as extremely important. The Soviet [as heard] diplomat expressed admiration for Ambassador Kolotusha's work during his stay in Lebanon. He also expressed Lebanon's satisfaction with the fact that a diplomat who is aware of the intricacies of the Middle East issue, especially the Lebanese issue, will be chief of this administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Ambassador Kolotusha is scheduled to return to Beirut within a few weeks to bid the Lebanese officials farewell.

Discussed by Al-Hirawi, Sasin

NC3006144890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Labor Minister Michel Sasin at noon today to discuss the Soviet proposal that the five states confronting Israel should coordinate their actions in order to unify their ranks and face the danger posed by the new Israeli Government.

Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, communicated this proposal to Minister Sasin this morning, in his capacity as acting prime minister. (Igor Ivachenko), the Soviet Embassy charge d'affaires in Lebanon [name and title as received], had informed Amb. Sutaytiyah of the proposal, which is to be conveyed to the Lebanese officials.

'Awn, Ja'ja' Interviewed on Al-Ta'if Accord

NC3006101690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Excerpts] After Michel 'Awn announced a few days ago that the distance between him and the government of al-Hirawi and al-Huss had decreased, 'Awn has again said that the distance between him and President al-Hirawi has not shortened and is still great.

In an interview published by AL-LIWA' today, 30 June, 'Awn reiterated the claim that his government is legitimate and can negotiate. The other legitimacy, as he termed it, owns nothing but the central bank.

He expressed the view that East Beirut fighting has ended and said: Either I win here from the B'abda palace, or I die here. He noted that the al-Ta'if accord is rejected and is disgraceful because the accord contains disorder, adding that he will support the al-Ta'if accord if this disorder is removed. He announced that he has a plan to absorb the Lebanese Forces and all militias. [passage omitted]

For his part, Samir Ja'ja' has said that no initiative will succeed unless it takes into consideration the Lebanese situation as a whole and the legitmacy of President Ilyas al-Hirawi in particular. He reiterated his call on the legitimacy to swiftly make one of two decisions regarding the East Beirut crisis: to either regain its army from 'Awn by force, or to include him in a solution.

On prospects for future cooperation between him and 'Awn, Ja'ja' said: Yes, at political and government levels, but no at a personal level.

In an interview with AL-DUWALIYAH, Ja'ja' said the al-Ta'if accord's articles bear the seeds of federalism and decentralization.

'Awn Predicts Solution, Releases Prisoners

NC3006181590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Michel 'Awn predicted today that the Lebanese issue will be resolved before the end of this year. However, he said, the Palestinian issue will surface once more both politically and militarily, and this will bring about a radical change in the situation. 'Awn said that future developments will be shaped by the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

'Awn said that no one can deny the importance of holding parliamentary elections and selecting new representatives of the Lebanese people. The new deputies, he said, should endorse a comprehensive solution among the Lebanese and then proceed to look into bilateral relations with regional powers.

'Awn expressed the belief that the missions of papal envoy Pablo Puente and French envoy Francois Scheer are currently on hold but could possibly be resumed from Paris and the Vatican.

Meanwhile, tension still reigns over East Beirut due to the recurring clashes. Today, Michel 'Awn's radio said that a third batch of detainees held by the al-Yarzah group ['Awn's Defense Ministry] have been released. This batch includes 180 detainees.

Meanwhile, KUNA has cited security and medical sources as saying that the clashes between 'Awn and Ja'ja' supporters during the month of June left 25 dead and 129 injured.

Official Receives Prisoners

NC3006182690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik, the Lebanese Forces chief of staff, this evening received 13 members of the Lebanese Forces who had been released by General 'Awn's forces. They briefed Maj. Gen. Malik on the circumstances of their detention.

Asked by the Voice of Lebanon whether it is true that 180 detainees were released today, Maj. Gen. Malik said: I have no idea if such a number of detainees have been released. I met with 13 persons who have been freed. I hope that the figure you cite is true.

Junblatt Says Al-Huss With U.S. Intelligence

NC0107202490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt has said: It is 'Id al-Adha again and one cannot help remembering the poet's words: Feast, what are you back for? The poor are living in want, illness, misery, and ignorance, while the Summerland and Carlton [Beirut hotels] wallow in prostitution, commissions, theft, and debauchery.

The Arabs have come up with a new invention, an Arab and international fund to assist Lebanon, with allocations amounting to $2 billion. This is a new commission, a new gimmick by the Arabs so as not to spend a penny on Lebanon. [sentence as received] And, even if they spend money, do not we have the right to ask: How will that money be spent? Will it be spent through the Chamber of Deputies, or the construction council, or the Telecommunications Ministry, now under the Phalangist [Dr. George Sa'adah], or the Health Ministry, that will pile up stocks of foodstuffs and supplies in [Health and Tourism Minister] 'Abdallah al-Rasi's farm in Shaykh Tabah in 'Akkar or in the Tourism Ministry in Beirut? [passage omitted]

A despicable person in 'Ayn al-Hulwah has accused the [Druze] noble white turban of treason and of dealing with Israel. I do not blame that base person. I just wonder where the nationalist parties are. Why did not they speak out and tell the truth, if they want to retain their integrity? It seems that even these parties have been drawn into the circle of profiteering, into the rackets involving flour and medicine. But I am certain that the parties that produced [resistance fighters] Sana' Muhayti and Lula 'Abbud will once again find their true mettle and expel the turncoats and racketeers from their ranks.

I say this because even in the PSP there are racketeers. It is a shame on our part to accept among our ranks those who trade in Sri Lankan girls. This is shameful. It is a shame on our part to accept them among us, and they will be punished soon. I will call for new elections in the PSP Political Bureau and legislative council.

Meanwhile, Junblatt added, we know that [Prime Minister] Salim al-Huss is an employee of the U.S. intelligence service. This is a well-known matter and not astonishing. We know that what is being said about a possible resignation of the government is nonsense. The government is staying, unfortunately, because the U.S. intelligence service and the black operations room in Paris [not further identified] that installed [slain Lebanese President] Bashir al-Jumayyil in the past want Salim al-Huss to stay put. But let al-Huss and his like remember Kamal Junblatt's famous cry in the face of the tyrant: What we want to vanish will vanish and what we want to spring into life will spring into life. Beirut will return to its roots, to its Arab identity. [passage omitted]

This came in a speech delivered by Junblatt in Mazra'at al-Shuf at 1500 today. [passage omitted]

FRC Denies Abu-Nidal's Return to Baghdad

NC2906113290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Fatah—the Revolutionary Council [FRC] has urged all nationalist Lebanese, Palestinian, and Islamic forces to assume their responsiblity in the face of the provocative practices undertaken by Yasir 'Arafat's leadership throughout the south and in the Palestinian camps. The FRC stressed its right to safeguard the weapons fighting the Israeli enemy.

In a news conference held today, FRC official spokesman Mansur Hamdan stated that the recent developments in the al-Rashidiyah camps [reference to inter-Palestinian fighting] are merely the result of a permanent U.S.-Zionist scheme to be executed by all the pawns affiliated with this hostile alliance. The FRC demanded that the situation return to what it was prior to what it termed the series of crimes committed against the camp, its residents, the movement, and its members, and that the murderers responsible for the crimes be severely punished.

In response to a question by our radio, the FRC spokesman denied reports on the return of Sabri al-Banna, Abu-Nidal, to Baghdad, terming such reports as part of the suspicious attempts to undermine the movement and its goals.

Lahhud Sends Thanks for Algerian Military Aid

NC2906115390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Nov 90

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has sent a letter to Algerian Ambassador Mohamed Lakdhar Belaid thanking his government for the arrival of the first consignment of Algerian military aid to the Lebanese Army. The consignment, which arrived at Tripoli

port yesterday, consists of 25 trucks, 10 Jeeps, 20 wireless radio sets, one mine sweeper, and 1,500 military uniforms.

Hizballah Official on Pilgrimage, Resistance War

NC3006122790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Marking the third anniversary of the Saudi rulers' massacre of pilgrims at the holy shrine, Hizballah organized a huge popular march yesterday afternoon involving thousands of people. The march was led by a group of ulema, foremost of whom were Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Their Eminence Shaykh Husayn Kurani, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Shaykh 'Abbas Harb, and Mr. Sami Khadra, as well delegations representing the Institute of the Islamic Revolution Martyr and the imam's relief committee.

The march took off from Imam Rida Mosque and headed for the Hizballah Shura council yard in Harat Hurayk. The marchers raised placards denouncing the Saudi family, agents of America, and chanted slogans condemning America, Israel, and its agents.

Addressing the crowd at the end of the march, Shaykh al-Tufayli said: Do not feel sad for being denied pilgrimage, because today's pilgrimage is conducted in the Jewish-American way. Pilgrimage should be performed the Islamic way, as God and the Koran decreed, calling for disowning polytheists or for a movement in preparation for the liberation of Muslims. He urged Muslims to be ready to defend Islam and said: We must follow the example of the messenger of God, may God's prayers be upon him and his scions, and bring back the cities of Mecca and al-Madinah to the bosom of Islam so that the banner of Islam may fly high again over Mecca and the holy shrine.

On the war imposed on the Islamic resistance, his eminence said: The war on the Islamic resistance will remain because the war order comes from Washington. The war on the resistance in the past two years is not separate from the wars waged on Islam by the global arrogance. It is the same war waged by the West's agents in Mecca, the Gulf, Palestine, and Lebanon. He added: If this war is not being launched by an American decision, let them [not identified] come and sit at the negotiation and dialogue table. He noted that the media-reported accords and solutions seek to waste time and dilute the situation, while in fact there is no solution in sight.

He went on: We have tried, sought, and called for ending this war but failed. All mediation efforts exerted by Iran and Syria also failed because the sedition was well devised and the decision to stop it comes from America.

Amal Proposes Cease-Fire, Prisoner Exchange

NC3006213590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha holiday, the Amal Movement has declared a unilateral initiative calling for a total cease-fire in all Lebanese territories and immediate preparations to exchange prisoners of war between the movement and Hizballah as of this evening. The movement said it hoped this initiative would be the prelude to a comprehensive and complete solution that would end fighting between the two sides.

So far, Hizballah has not commented on the initiative.

Iqlim Al-Tuffah Areas Shelled by Hizballah

NC3006122790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] The security situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah erupted anew today after a truce of several months. A state of tension and alert prevails in the region due to security flare-ups between Amal and Hizballah positions.

An Amal Movement military source stressed that Hizballah gunmen have been shelling Sarba, Humin al-Fawqa, and Jarju' with mortars and rocket launchers since last night. The source added that Hizballah is conducting military preparations.

Hizballah To Observe Cease-Fire With Amal

NC0107175290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Hizballah announced today that it will observe a cease-fire with the Amal Movement. Yesterday, Amal announced a comprehensive cease-fire on its side on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

Carries Message on Lebanon

JN2906122690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, and Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi arrived in Damascus at 1015 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

On hand to receive them at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department; the Saudi ambassador in Damascus; and embassy staff.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the objective of his visit to Damascus is to convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from the heads of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon dealing with the working schedule that the Tripartite Committee is carrying out, and to inform the president of the international contacts the committee has held within this framework.

He added: We will discuss with sisterly Syria the efforts to work as one body to implement the al-Ta'if agreement and to support the legitimate Lebanese Government in performing this task.

His Highness Prince Faysal concluded his statement saying: As in previous meetings, we hope that in this one we will find the appropriate means to support the legitimate government in Lebanon.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN2906150390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] In Damascus, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at noon today. The Saudi foreign minister was accompanied by Arab League Assistant Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi, envoy of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur.

The officials exchanged views on the latest Lebanese developments within the context of the implementation of the national accord document and support for the Lebanese legitimate government.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also presented the results of the Arab Tripartite Committee's contacts concerning the situation in Lebanon.

Holds Talks With Al-Asad, Ibrahimi

JN2906175990 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] At 1500 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general in charge of Lebanese affairs. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, and Dr. Khalid al-Jundal, minister plenipotentiary at the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

Lebanon, Al-Ta'if Discussed

JN3006060690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] At 1800 yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general in charge of Lebanese affairs. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, and Dr. Khalid al-Jundal, minister plenipotentiary at the Saudi Foreign Ministry.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed to the president a message from the leaders of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon. The message deals with the committee's action and its latest contacts to implement the Lebanese national reconciliation charter agreed upon during the al-Ta'if meetings.

The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon, the activity and contacts of the Arab Tripartite Committee, and current efforts to support the Lebanese legitimate government and help it implement the national reconciliation charter.

The president stressed Syria's support for the legitimate authority in Lebanon and its readiness to provide every possible assistance to render the march toward national accord in Lebanon a success and to bolster the country's constitutional institutions and their role in returning life to normal in all Lebanese regions.

At 2030 yesterday, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Lakhdar Ibrahimi. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, and Dr. Khalid al-Jundal, minister plenipotentiary at the Saudi Foreign Ministry. The talks dealt with the activities and contacts of the Arab Tripartite Committee on Lebanon within efforts to implement the national reconciliation charter and support the legitimate authority in Lebanon.

Departs Following Meeting

JN3006095590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus this morning following a visit during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Ambassador Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi.

Commentary Warns of Israeli Designs on Arab Land

JN2906145690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, several booby-trapped cars went off in Lebanon as Israel's agents in the Lahd militia attacked the city of Sidon and environs. The link among these incidents is clear. Whenever there is a possibility of easing the situation in Lebanon, Israel, directly or through its agents, moves to nip the desired national accord and foil every possibility of achieving domestic reconciliation and relieving the fraternal country of its 15-year-old ordeal. Over the past years, Israel has detonated scores of booby-trapped cars in eastern and western areas and also has interfered directly in the eastern area to undermine the tripartite agreement, which was signed in Damascus and which cleared the way for a final solution to the Lebanese crisis.

Lebanon is engaged in intensified activity to end the abnormal situation in the eastern area and spread legitimacy over all parties in the Lebanese arena. The whole world has sensed the absurdity of the current conflict in east Beirut; international parties, which have been hesitating to support the legitimate government, have expressed readiness to adopt a very different position, which will place Israel's direct agents in a very difficult situation, because these agents will not be able to face international isolation in addition to Lebanese and Arab isolation. In other words, attempts to keep the Lebanese situation volatile in order to continue plans to Judaize the south will undergo a severe setback.

Everyone knows that Israel's ambitions are centered, at least for the time being, on southern Lebanon, where the Zionists have established a mini-state by separating part of Lebanon's territory under the pretext of security considerations. They also established a militia called the South Lebanese Army. The Zionists are training, financing, and paying the wages of these forces, which are directly linked with the Israeli military command. The Zionists entrusted these militias with attacking southern villages and cities to expel the residents and keep the situation tense. The occupied area was also evacuated of its residents. At the same time, Israeli experts are studying plans to change the features of the land, set up settlements, and divert waters from southern Lebanon to Israel.

Israel's ambitions over Arab waters are not less than its ambitions over Arab lands. In the West Bank, Israel has diverted 75 percent of Arab waters to Zionist complexes, thus depriving the Arabs, preventing the building of wells and access to underground water, and severely damaging Arab agriculture. Zionist circles believe that by seizing water resources, they can achieve a twofold purpose: causing direct harm to Arab farmers to force them to emigrate and supplying irrigation water to Israeli farmers. This will inevitably lead to a change in the nature of the land and entice the Zionists to remain on these lands. Reports from Israel say the Zionists are preparing to divert the waters of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers.

Thus, it is clear that the Zionist conspiracy is mutidimensional and that what is happening in the occupied Arab territories is part of the feverish Zionist activity in southern Lebanon. As the conspiracy is multifaceted and huge, its confrontation requires a unified and responsible Arab position and a thorough and serious remedy. This is what Syria has been calling for by stressing the pan-Arabism of the battle and the comprehensiveness of the Zionist danger.

U.S. Condemned for UN Zionism Resolution Stance

JN0107201190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] O brother struggler: At a historic moment in 1975, the UN General Assembly revolted against U.S. hegemony and passed its great and eternal Resolution No. 3379 condemning Zionism and branding it as racism. Since then, U.S. politics has gone mad and that madness can be called the 3379 madness. As a result, subsequent U.S. Administrations have been working to abrogate the resolution, as though it had branded the United States itself, not Israel with racism.

This madness characterizing U.S. politics has exceeded all limits. It went past the limits of political and diplomatic efforts to the point that former President Ronald Reagan mobilized a demonstration by Zionized international figures loyal to Israel. The demonstrators stormed UN headquarters and roamed its halls and corridors calling for the abrogation of the resolution.

It is not necessary to give more evidence of the importance of the resolution to the Palestine question. I also hope we do not exaggerate when we assume that the resolution is a concise legal definition of the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, because racism means colonialism and settlement colonialism that destroy homelands, nations, man, and human rights. This is what Israel and Zionism has done to the Palestinian Arab people.

Therefore, the resolution is eternal and one of the greatest and most honorable resolutions to be issued by the international community. But what is the meaning of the U.S. madness over that resolution? The matter is completely clear. Racism is the most advanced stage of crime against mankind. When Israel and Zionism are branded with racism and when the United States decides to protect Zionism and Israel's racism, this means that the United States is a protector of racism, and even the most racist form of racism in this world.

In other words, the United Nations' condemnation of Zionism as a racist movement is a condemnation of the U.S. policy itself as both racist and protecting racism at the

same time. U.S. policy can do whatever it wishes, as long as it chooses to be the advocate of the Zionist Satan. But the Arab nation will not forgive any party that bows to U.S. pressure and helps twist the arm of the United Nations to renege on its historic and eternal Resolution No. 3379.

U.S. policy may hint that the abrogation of the historic resolution will facilitate the peace process. But the Arab citizen has no objection to sending a false peace to hell in order to protect the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, as embodied in this eternal international resolution. Relinquishing this resolution will absolve Israel of responsibility for destroying the Palestinian homeland, the Palestinian Arab people, the Palestinian Arab citizen, and the Palestinian Arab right.

The Arabs should fight to strengthen and reinforce that resolution with the same enthusiasm with which they will begin liberation when the time of liberation comes. The Arabs should also cut off any hand that harms or tries to abrogate that resolution.

Commentary Views International Conference, Peace

JN0207070690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region enjoy worldwide support amid fears in the international community that Zionist aggression, expansion, and settlement will be stepped up, in conflict with security and peace in the region and the world at large. At this stage, serious consensus is being worked out on the international arena to the effect that the international conference is the only option to achieve a just peace when all illusions about mirage-like partial solutions have evaporated. The international community believes that just and comprehensive peace can come only through an international conference based on the resolutions of the United Nations and its institutions and also through acting firmly and decisively against the policy of terrorism and Zionist settlement.

There is also an international consensus that it is Israel which rejects just and lasting peace in the region and always tries to undermine the bases of that peace by insisting on going ahead with the dangerous terrorist, aggressive, and expansionist strategy to establish greater Israel.

This was confirmed by Yitzhaq Shamir's radical government, which has further aggravated the already explosive situation in the region. The Shamir government, which rejects the bases of a just peace and pushes the region to the brink of explosion, is defying international will.

This requires that the international community and the influential states in particular move from verbal condemnation and formal rejection to taking tangible measures to end the Zionists' war of annihilation against the Palestinian Arab citizens in the occupied territories, to terminate Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, and to quickly resume the international peace conference, as it is the only option for a just peace in the region.

Israel, which agreed in 1973 to an international peace conference, is now rejecting it. Moreover, it rejects every international offer, initiative, or effort toward a just peace. The revival of this conference under UN auspices and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the members of the UN Security Council, remains the best and most effective option for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

International developments have reaffirmed the impotence of partial and unilateral solutions. Syria has also stressed this point on several occasions and is still endeavoring to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions. The same was also stressed by Hafiz al-Asad yesterday, when he said: We believe that resuming the international conference, which was held in 1973 under the auspices of the United Nations and in which the United States and the Soviet Union participated, can constitute a good opportunity to achieve a just and stable peace.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Elected President of Homeland Party

LD2806170190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] The president of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah, in the first party meeting of the Homeland Party Central Council which was held today during the work of the congress, was unanimously elected president of the Homeland Party.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports from today's meeting of the congress that in the morning session of the congress, chaired by Nazar Muhammad, the new draft party constitution was discussed. In the second part of the congress session the congress delegates put forward their opinions and proposals concerning various parts of the new draft constitution of the Homeland Party. After thorough discussion the 41 articles of the Homeland's draft constitution were unanimously approved.

In the morning session of the congress meeting, the list of candidates for full and candidate members of the Central Council of the Homeland Party and candidates to the supervisory board of the Central Council, proposed by the presidium of the congress, was read out by Farid Ahmad Mazdak. After comprehensive discussion and the expression of opinions by the candidates, 144 members were elected as full members and 59 as candidate members to the Central Council. Also, 33 members were elected to the Supervisory Board of the Homeland Party Central Council.

During another session of the congress, which was chaired by Nur Ahmad Nur, the report of the first plenary meeting of the Homeland Party Central Council and a report by the Supervisory Board of the Homeland Party were presented to the congress. The election of esteemed Najibullah as president of the Homeland Party, vice presidents of the party, and the election of full and candidate members of the Executive Board of the Homeland Party Central Council were welcomed with applause by the congress participants.

In the plenary session of the Central Council, Raz Muhammad Paktin, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Sulayman La'eq, 'Abdul Wakil, Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, Muhammad Rafi', Mahmud Barialay, Najmuddin Kawiani, Nazar Muhammad, and Nur Ahmad Nur were elected full members of the Executive Board. Also, Sayyed Ekram Patgir, and ('Abdul Qodus Qorbandi) were elected candidate members of the Executive Board of the Homeland Party Central Council. Sulayman La'eq, Farid Ahmad Mazdak, Najmuddin Kawiani, and Nazar Muhammad were elected vice presidents of the Homeland Party.

In the meeting of the Central Council Supervisory Council, a report of which was approved by the congress, [name indistinct] was elected as chairman, and Abdul Ahad and [name indistinct] Karmand were elected as vice chairmen of the Homeland Party Supervisory Council.

During another part of the congress work, chaired by 'Abdul Wakil, member of the Executive Board of the Homeland Party Central Council, in accordance with a proposal by the congress presidium, the congress delegates unanimously authorised the Homeland Party Central Council, to prepare the symbol and other particulars of the banner of the Homeland Party.

Addresses Party Congress 28 Jun

LD2806193190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Concluding speech by President Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, Central Committee, at the closing of the Second PDPA Congress in Kabul on 28 June—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Esteemed participants of the congress, the party congress comes close to the conclusion of its work. Allow me first of all, on behalf of the Homeland Party Central Council to express thanks for your participation and that of all the patriotic party members who have actively worked to prepare the work of the congress.

The congress approved the issue of party reconstruction in all the fields such as the political line and idea, principle of party life and methods of work in the society and among the people. It declared as the strategic party policy the national reconciliation policy—that is struggle to ensure peace, national understanding, further expansion of democracy in the society and mobilization of all the forces and possibilities toward the economic and social reconstruction and progress of the country.

This means that the party is ready to fulfill its duties, based on our national, patriotic, and Afghan duties during this hard and sensitive moment which our country is going through and to stand in the center of the movement toward the ensuring of peace and national reconstruction.

The congress approved the efforts of the party in directions of expansion of democracy, strengthening of a political system based on multiple parties, and formation of a central and local coalition administrations based on the principles of democracy. The congress demanded further expansion of new initiatives by the party in these spheres.

The party will thus be able to change into the biggest force of peace and democracy in the country. This is our historic challenge for the future.

The process of preparation and holding of the congress was the manifestation of the notable development of democracy in the path of the party and the great reserves and possibilities in this fields. One can see the proof of

this fact in the extended scale of questions and views that were discussed, and in the unprecedented depth of analysis and assessment made in the free and democratic climate that existed in the sessions and the huge quantity of the participants in the discussion on the current political policy and prospect of party both during the process of the congress' preparation and during its work.

A large number of party members expressed their views during the sessions and conferences which were held to prepare the congress. We can say clearly that the new documents of party policy are the fruit of the thinking and joint work of its members. This matter constitutes the source of our confidence in connection with collective implementation of new duties and realization of the planned goals of the party.

We can bravely say that the period before and during the congress were transformed into a school of new party thinking in the political field and in the methods of its work.

This heavy duty lies today before the representatives of the party to convey the congress spirit and decisions to all the party members and through them to the people. The work of the congress is ending in a climate of unity and cohesion. This fact shows that the unit of the party has become more consolidated than at any other time as a result of its members voluntary understanding of the policy of reconciliation. In preparation for the congress, rich, varied, and sometimes contradictory views were discussed on current and future party policies.

It is absolutely natural and right for this to be so. This shows the development of the political thinking of the party members and guarantees the accurate and voluntary duties of our party.

The pluralism of ideology, the compilation of party policy is the only instrument for the unconditional implementation of decisions and fulfilment of duties toward party unity. Those people who believed holding the party congress was an impossible task and who thought that our party is not united were deeply wrong.

The common view and joint action of the representatives of the congress who represent thousands party members and their active participation in the work of this great party congress showed clearly that the party members, in light of their years of struggle, have a deep feeling of responsibility toward the issue of their party's unity and cohesion.

We have full confidence that the Homeland Party will fight and go forward with tireless unity and solidarity in the future in order to implement national reconciliation policy and national reconstruction. The process of the congress' work showed the readiness of the party to bravely assess its activities during the last 25 years, and to put before party members a new thinking and action to ensure peace, pluralism, democracy, social progress, and to draft and implement realistic policies based on the national interest.

By protecting the humane aims of the PDPA—consolidation of independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity; ensuring independence, democracy, progress, equality, social justice and peace—the congress declared that in its past activity the party has made several small, large, and even disastrous mistakes despite its great and enlightening role in political awareness.

These mistakes emanated mainly from factional conflicts and party divisions, from unrealistic assessment of the country's objective realities, and from the role of the party and other forces in society's political life. Because of these mistakes, the party ended up ignoring the teaching element in the process of socio-economic development and relying on the one-party system, the indisputable monopoly of power, and the role of political allies. This eventually caused the party's political isolation in society. The hope to end the war as this policy continued was eliminated completely.

The national reconciliation policy was our party's historic response to the difficult situation which had arisen in our country. The congress established the present basic task of party life and its fundamental restructuring. The congress proceeded with a plan of qualitative transformation based on political experiences derived from years of the implementation of the national reconciliation policy—which were years of hard struggle, and collective search and thought.

The congress approved the new party policy. In relation to the party's new role in society and its political and structural reconstruction it approved the changing of the name PDPA to the Homeland Party. We are sure that the present congress will have an honorable place in the history of the party and the peaceloving and national movement of Afghanistan as a congress of peace, unity, and creativity.

The question discussed today is what will be the future basic tasks of the Homeland Party. The Homeland Party will continue its efforts toward the solution of the country's issues by political means, giving precedence to national interest over class, group, and strata interest. The Homeland Party, in order to achieve a broad national understanding for ensuring peace and reviving the country from social and economic viewpoints, considers political dialogue with all sides involved in the war as the undeviated principle of its present policy.

These talks will continue more effectively with groups residing in neighboring countries—Afghani intellectuals resident in Europe and the United States, supports of the former king, and the representatives of the refugees. Of great importance to the party's fruitful political dialogue with the commanders of the country's Armed Forces, taking into account their various regional, national, and social requirements.

Our work program will also include further attention to and accurate organization of relations with the armed groups who have joined the national reconciliation. The tireless principle of the Homeland Party will be the

struggle to ensure broad democracy in society life, participation with equal rights of all the social forces and groups, and defense of the political and legal activity for all the country's political parties and organizations.

The party will be faced with a great test in the near future: free, secret, direct, equal, and general elections. It should be mentioned that the holding of these elections is the result of acceptance of the basic ideas of the national reconciliation policy by the political forces of our country and the constant efforts by our party toward the political solution of the current conflict of the country. The implementation of a general election will put before our party great, historic tasks which require more than any other time the attraction of political allies, accurate work, and close ties with the people.

The Central Council of Homeland Party considers contact with people and honest service to them as the best criterion to assess the activities of party members. It is thus necessary matter. The specification of the country's various regions and localities should be studied deeply—and those local cadres who enjoy, respect, trust and have a deep link with people should be chosen for active participation in the elections campaign.

There is special importance in the new political climate of the country—which stresses multiple parties and all-round efforts toward political and peaceful solutions—on the unity of actions by all forces in favor of peace and reconstruction. The Homeland Party will thus pay attention to further seek new political allies and to ensure mutually beneficial relations with them.

The party will struggle to create new forms of administration in the regions and localities based on the principles of democracy. As the only national party, and constituting representatives of all social stratas, nationalities, tribes and clans, the party will act toward the consolidation of national unity based on equality of their economic, political, social, and cultural rights.

The new thinking of our party in connection with socio-economic development of the country is based on this fact to re-assess our approach with the private section of the economy, mechanism of the free market, and foreign investments and assistance.

The party will support the comprehensive development of the private sector; strengthening of the economy; free market and extensive attraction of foreign assistance and investments in the various economic, social, and cultural sections of the country based on the national interest, and will defend the legal form of ownership. The party will continue its comprehensive efforts towards the resettlement of and assistance to the returnees in the framework of the UN humanitarian assistance.

Dear representatives, you know that great duties lie before us. The fulfillment of these duties, approved in the policy of Homeland Party, makes necessary self sacrifice and constant work by all party members. Our party should be transformed into a symbol of legality and respect for the people and national interests. The party members should be able to learn from the valuable sources of our people's cultural and spirituality, and should stand next to them and serve them everywhere. [applause]

Let us each step toward peace and democracy in the history of Afghanistan. May a peaceful and advanced Afghanistan have deep links with the name of our party. [applause]

Let us make as a permanent slogan of our party the ensuring of justice; protection of independence; defense of national heritage; modesty; honest service to people; struggle against deviation, pride, selfishness, and ambitiousness. This should be a motive of the activity of each of its members. [applause]

The party steps into a new boundary which requires more ideal, more adherence to the human, humane, and humanitarian norms, understanding, and democracy.

Under the new conditions, people will stand alongside our party not because of the administrative leadership but because they see the banner of peace, homeland, Islam, democracy and humanitarianism. [applause] Our party, the Homeland Party, should be able to be the best representative of the aspiration of the people.

Esteemed participants of the congress, with the conclusion of the work of the congress, the struggle of the Homeland Party, the party of true patriots and reformists of Afghanistan will continue firmly. For the extremists' warmongering forces and their patrons have not given up their sinister aims, and military assistance to the extremists forces continues.

We should thus prevent the implementation of their devious aims with vigilance and firmness. We are the defenders of our country's independence and territorial integrity. Struggle will also continue in the future. The antireconciliation forces want to create obstacles to our country's progress toward peace, democracy, and social justice. We will struggle against them. Other forces will work for the sake of homeland and the people and we will continue our struggle alongside them toward the construction and development of the country. We will stand next to our people. We will be defeated, but finally we will be victorious and the unending process of life and struggle will continue. [applause]

Dear members of the congress, my election as the chairman of the Homeland Party and the election of deputies and the executive board of the Homeland Party has created two types of feeling for us. First, the feeling of happiness emanates from the trust that you, the credible representatives of the Homeland Party, have unanimously expressed for my colleagues and me. The other feeling is the heavy burden of the responsibilities that you have placed on our shoulders. We promise before you to use all our morale and material energy to fulfill our great duties and responsibilities in the interest

of the aims and aspirations of the Homeland Party and the national interest of our beloved country, Afghanistan.

We will be successful in our entrusted duties when we enjoy the cooperation, honest support and backing of each of you and all the members of our proud party. Our present duty is to go forward boldly and bravely and to implement the proud duties that have been put before us by the congress.

Dear comrades, all the issues that were predicted and decided in the agenda of the second congress of the party, were discussed and were unanimously approved. I therefore declare the conclusion of the work of the congress in the hope of the practical implementation of all the decisions and duties of the party congress.

Long live the homeland, long live our beloved homeland. Long live the Homeland Party. [shouts from floor: Long live!] Long live our beloved country, Afghanistan. [applause]

Reportedly Orders Officers' Execution

BK3006092490 Lahore THE NATION in English 30 Jun 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar—Gen Najib, leader of the Kabul Junta, ordered execution of 54 officers including Gen. Abdul Haq Wardak, Commandant of the 4th Armoured Squardron; Sayed Wali, brother of Golabzoy—notorious Khaliqi [member of khalq faction of party], the then Interior Minister and lately Ambassador of the Junta in Moscow and Shahpur Logari a pilot on June 11, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reporters writes from Kabul.

The report said the accused officers have received severe torture for having links with the coup-makers last March.

The interrogation of the officer said the report had been conducted under the supervision of 70 Russian advisors.

Another MIDIA report from the Afghan capital says the Communist regime suspended all schools of Kabul from February 6 to July 1990.—APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN]

Pardons Prisoners for 'Id al-Adha

LD3006203690 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, has pardoned prison terms for a number of male and female prisoners from the center and the provinces of the country. This was done on the occasion of 'Id al-Adha and in continuation of measures based on the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, and in accordance with Paragraph 8, Article 75, of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. Having stated the above, the presidential office told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY the decree on the release of the aforementioned prisoners has been sent to the relevant authorities.

Resistance Leader Calls Kabul Congress 'Bluff'

BK3006024090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2144 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 29 (AFP)—This week's ruling party Congress in Afghanistan was a bluff which did not change the communist character of the Soviet-backed government, according to resistance leader Amin Wardak. The Congress was "a vast bluff" and was seen as such by "all the population" of Afghanistan, Commander Wardak said.

"We believe the same as before. Nothing has changed. Even if it has changed its name and now calls itself Hezb-e Watan (Homeland Party), the PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) remains for all Afghans a communist party, put in place by the Soviets," he said. Cdr. Wardak was referring to two-day party Congress which ended Thursday [28 June] in Kabul, the Afghan capital, at which the PDPA agreed to change its name and its constitution to distance itself from its communist roots.

"As long as this regime is in place, we will continue the fight" for an Islamic government in Afghanistan, the rebel military leader said.

The ruling party Congress in Kabul Thursday also elected President Najibullah as head of state for another four years. Mr. Najibullah, who came to power in 1986 during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, was previously head of the KhAD secret police, which is believed responsible for the death of tens of thousands of Afghans.

Afghan Groups Suggest New Formula To End Crisis

BK3006101090 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jun 90 p 10

[Text] Peshawar, June 29—Following intensive parleys between various groups of Afghan Mujahidin, the officials of Afghan interim government [AIG] and the parties out of it have floated a new idea of convening a conference of heads of all big and smaller groups to evolve a consensus on ending the deadlock which is hindering the settlement of Afghan crisis.

After agreeing on the formula of a six-member committee of ex-Kabul diplomate-cum-officials who have been entrusted with furthering the negotiations with all parties the other day, now a nine member committee has been constituted which would work over the new formula proposed by Daaya-e Etehad-e Eslami Afghanistan and will comprise heads of three smaller Peshawar based parties and the foreign invitees from the Europe.

It is reliably learnt that Eng. [Engineer] Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, head of Hezb-e Eslami (his own group) has

accorded his consent for convening a conference of heads of all parties of Afghan Jehad [holy war] including Peshawar and Iran based to finally form a Grand Shura [consultative council] to replace present set up of Afghan Interim Government.

Both Eng. Hekmatyar and Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani have met with the visiting Iran based nine parties alliance delegation and held parleys with them on the new formula. Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of Jamiat-e Eslami and Reconstruction Minister in the A.I.G. is understood to have offered to depute a representative of his party to represent his party in his absence in the ongoing negotiations.

Meanwhile the six member committee comprising former parliamentarians and diplomats invited from Europe, America, Saudi Arabia, Iran and France will continue to work.

Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani, Chief Election Commissioner and Chief justice of A.I.G. is also believed to have consented to the new formula and assured his participation in the future negotiations. Likewise Prof Mujaddedi has also agreed to the proposal of the Mujahidin leaders conference.

The new formula appears to have been floated to minimise the differences cropping up in the ranks of Peshawar based seven parties alliance of which Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami left it while there remained a number of difference on a number of issues between various heads of parties now in the alliance. [sentence as published]

Prof Sayyaf, the Prime Minister of the A.I.G. has literally drew himself away from the major decision making meetings of the A.I.G. as he has not attended any of the meetings [at] which Prof Mojaddedi presided during last few weeks. He has particularly shown his disagreement with the idea of recalling former King Zahir Shah's time officials and diplomats to Peshawar.

Mawlawi Yiunis Khalis, Interior Minister in the A.I.G. is also against any role for the ex-Kabul monarch officials but he has met them in an effort to give them his thinking.

Apparently, the former diplomats, parliamentarians and officials of Zahir Shah's time have failed in convincing the parties out of A.I.G. to go with them as was desired by the American diplomats at this stage so as to create a consensus on the person of either Zahir Shah or his nominee to put an end to the political deadlock.

Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has taken a serious view of a recent statement of the U.S. State Department in which it was alleged that one organisation in the name of "International Jihad Organisation" allegedly affiliated with HIA [Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan] has sent a warning letter to the head of U.S. aid delegation in Peshawar as a result of which he flew back to USA.

In an interview with Afghan News Agency (ANA) on Friday Engineer Hekmatyar termed the allegation of the US a calculated campaign of the American C.I.A. which is aimed at creating a cause of action to carry out terrorist activities against the HIA leadership.

He clarified that neither any organisation exists in the name quoted above nor Hezb-e Eslami believe in any behind the scene activities and sending warning letters to any body. [sentence as published] He said that the current allegations against the Hezb-e Eslami is the product of dirty minds of American CIA and a part of the previous allegations.

Mujahidin Reportedly Down Plane Near Khowst

BK3006155290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have shot down a Kabul regime's transport plane near the air base of the besieged city of Khowst. They have also tightened their siege around the Kabul regime's defense posts located around the city. According to another report, the mujahidin have killed several Kabul regime soldiers in their operations in Paghman, Qandahar, Herat, and Lowgar Provinces.

India

Pakistan Acquiring Soviet Arms Causes Concern

BK2906150290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] India has expressed concern over Pakistan's reported moves to purchase the latest variety of Soviet tanks and armored personnel carriers along with matching missile systems. Responding to newsmen's queries in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that these arms and ammunition are thought to be obtained not from the Soviet Union directly but from other sources.

While ruling out any impact of Islamabad's action on the forthcoming Indo-Pak talks at the foreign secretaries level, the spokesman affirmed that government will take appropriate measures to defend the country's borders. Informed sources in New Delhi, however, say that India will definitely take up the issue with Pakistan during the proposed talks. The spokesman pointed out that the influx of sophisticated arms into Pakistan will reinforce terrorist activities in Kashmir and Punjab, as it would give a boost to the forces of militancy and fundamentalism.

Outgoing General Discusses Nuclear Options

BK3006113090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi, June 30 (AFP)—India would have no option but to possess nuclear weapons if a potentially

hostile neighbour also aquired the bomb, India's outgoing army chief of staff said here Saturday [30 June]. In an obvious reference to Pakistan, currently believed to have or be on the verge of perfecting its own bomb, Chief of Army Staff General V.N. Sharma said in an interview on All India Radio that unless the Indian Armed Forces possessed such a capability, it would have no deterrent.

"A reply to a nuclear weapon capability of a potential hostile nation is to possess the same capability yourself," he said.

However he said the decision on whether or not to have "such weapons" was in the hands of "our people and the government" and not in the hands of the Armed Forces. India exploded a nuclear device in 1974, but said then the capability would be used for strictly peaceful purposes.

Relations with Pakistan have deteriorated in the past four months over the issue of a secessionist movement in Indian-controlled Kashmir, with New Delhi accusing Islamabad of fuelling the campaign. Despite the two countries' Armed Forces commanders staying in touch by hot-line both sides are known to be conducting troop manoeuvers on their common border. The two countries have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

Without mentioning Pakistan by name, the general described the current geo-political climate as "tense" and predicted India would face what he described as some difficulties in the near future. The general also expressed his concern at the effects on the Indian Army's training and budget of being used in tackling internal law and order situations, saying he was in favor of setting up a U.S.-style national guard. He praised the present government's idea of trying to raise a force made up of ex-army officers and men saying it should reduce the number of times the army had to be called out within India's boundaries, but added that for "a few years to come" there was no option but to use the army.

Indian Army units are currently being used to tackle the virulent secessionist movement in Moslem-majority Kashmir and are frequently called out in the rest of the country when police and paramilitary fail to control communal riots or separatist outbreaks.

Gen. Sharma, who retired Saturday after 40 years of service in the Indian Army, the world's fourth largest, is to be replaced Sunday [1 July] by General S. F. Rodrigues, 56, currently chief of the army's strategic Western Command. Gen. Rodrigues' position in the Western Command is to be taken by Lieutenant General G.S. Grewal, a corps commander.

Gujral Rules Out Interference in Sri Lanka

BK3006034390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] India has firmly ruled out the possibility of interference in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. In an interview to the BBC, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said civilian casualties in the current upsurge of violence in the island nation is causing great concern to India, and called upon Colombo to take immediate measures to stop the bloodshed. Mr. Gujral said that there is no proposal for reinducting the Indian Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka.

Reiterating India's commitment to the unity, sovereignty, and integrity of Sri Lanka, Mr. Gujral said that Sri Lankan Government should see to it that the situation is brought under control as quickly as possible. He felt that it will be in the interests of everyone that normal political process of negotiations with all concerned begins soon to solve the ethnic problem.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, fierce fighting is continuing between the government forces and the Tamil militants in different places of the Northeastern Province. Reports say the Army cordoned off the town of Batticaloa and put it under indefinite curfew. In Jaffna, rebels kept up their siege of the town's old fort where more than 200 troops and police are trapped.

Sri Lankan Official To Brief

BK0207091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign secretary, Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna, arrived in New Delhi today to brief Indian leaders on the situation in the North and East Provinces. Mr. Tilakaratna will be meeting the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, later in the day. During his stay, the Sri Lankan foreign secretary is likely to call on the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, and the external affairs minister, Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral.

Restrictions on Amnesty International Visit Removed

BK2806163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi has removed restrictions on visits by representatives of Amnesty International to India. The restriction was imposed on this human rights organization temporarily a few months ago. These were removed after a review by the government of the question of permitting certain foreign groups, dealing with human rights, to enter India and observe the situation for themselves.

It was officially stated a couple of days ago that the government is fully conscious of its obligations toward the fulfillment of the human rights and aspirations of the people. New Delhi admitted here that India is totally an open society where journalists, including foreign journalists, have full access to facts and figures and there is nothing to hide.

Gandhi Asks Youth To Stop Visit

BK0207100290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi, July 2 (AFP)—Indian opposition leader Rajiv Gandhi ordered his party's youth wing Monday [2 July] to prevent Amnesty International representatives from entering India to probe alleged human rights abuses in Kashmir and Punjab. "Take to the streets, stage a sit-in at the airport, but on no count should you let Amnesty International investigators enter the country," Mr. Gandhi said. "If need be, I shall be with you."

The former prime minister's remarks came in a speech at the start of a two-day conference organised here by the Youth Congress (I), a wing of his Congress (I) party.

On Thursday [28 June], the government of his successor, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, lifted Mr. Gandhi's eight-month ban preventing representatives of the London-based human rights organisation from visiting the strife-torn states of Kashmir and Punjab.

Moslem militants are waging a bloody campaign for secession in Kashmir and Sikh separatists are active in Punjab. Hundreds have died in violence linked to the two campaigns. Local human rights activists have documented cases illustrating brutality and repression by security forces during anti-separatist operations in the two states, located in India's north on the border with Pakistan.

Mr. Gandhi, 46, hit out the government for lifting the ban, which his administration had imposed to stop unfavourable publicity for India. Amnesty in the past has published reports critical of India's human rights record.

"In a democracy with a free press, we do not need a character certificate of any kind from any other country," he told 1,500 Youth Congress (I) delegates. The former airline pilot said his party would take a "very firm" stand on the issue, "no matter what the government does."

The V.P. Singh government lifted the ban on Amnesty saying it was "fully conscious of its obligations toward the fulfillment of (the) human rights aspirations of its people."

All Trade, Transit Points With Nepal Open

BK0107135290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] The 16-month trade and transit dispute between India and Nepal ended today with the complete normalization of economic relations being (?effected). The director general of the customs department, Mr. Mohan Deo Pant, said that all the trading and transit points along the border have now been opened. India has also resumed supplies of essential items, like petroleum which began flowing across the border today.

Reopening Steps Reported

BK0207131190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] New Delhi has completed all formalities to ensure free flow of trade and transit between India and Nepal. Necessary public notices, notifications, and instructions in this regard have been issued. A complete set of these documents was handed over to the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, by the Indian ambassador, Mr. S.K. Sinha, in Kathmandu. Supply of petroleum products from India to Nepal has also been resumed.

Our Kathmandu correspondent, Harish Segon, reports notifications have been issued reopening 22 points along the India-Nepal border for movement of goods between the two countries and 15 points for Nepal's transit trade with third countries. The standby credit facilities to Nepal at an enhanced level of 35 crore rupees have been restored.

Senior Official, Three Others Killed in Srinagar

BK2906150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] The additional deputy commissioner of Srinagar, Mr. Abdul Aziz Khan, and three other persons were shot dead by terrorists at different places in Kashmir Valley today. Mr. Khan was shot at this morning when he was going to office from his residence in Shaheed Ganj area. He was rushed to the hospital and operated upon. He succumbed to the injuries in the afternoon.

Bullet-ridden body of a girl was recovered from Miskinbagh locality of Srinagar. A mother and her daughter were killed by terrorists at (Drusu) in Pulwama District last night.

Security forces arrested two Pakistan-trained terrorists belonging to the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front in Srinagar today.

Iran

President Reportedly Escapes Assassination

AU0207071090 Paris AFP in English 2314 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Cologne, West Gemany, July 2 (AFP)—Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani escaped an attempt on his life last Friday [30 June], avoiding a plane which later exploded in the air and crashed, according to a West German television report Sunday [1 July].

RTL-Plus television, quoting informed sources in Tehran, said Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was to have flown back to the capital after a visit to the northern city of Rasht following Iran's devastating earthquake last month. The unidentified sources said he was persuaded by friends to return to Tehran by car. They said the plane which he was to have taken crashed 20 minutes after takeoff following an explosion on board. The sources said Iran's Revolutionary Guards, acting under the influence of ultra-conservative

mullahs opposed to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's more moderate line, were behind the attempt.

RTL-Plus television said a bullet-proof vest he was wearing had saved Mr. Rafsanjani from another attempt on his life four weeks ago. The Iranian opposition movement, the People's Mojahedin, has claimed that last April one of his bodyguards failed in an attempt to shoot Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Ministry Official Predicts Hostage Release

LD0107095990 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 1 Jul 90 p 1

[Article by Kevin Toolis in Tehran: "Iran Points to Hostage Release"]

[Text] Iran indicated in very strong terms yesterday that at least one more Western hostage in the Lebanon will shortly be freed. In an exclusive interview with THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT, a leading Iranian official, Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian, said that Iran would engineer the release as a further gesture of goodwill to the West. He refused to be more specific, or to name the hostage. But he insisted: "It is very optimistic news for you."

Mr. Musavian, who is the head of the West European bureau of Iran's foreign ministry—and at the centre of negotiations with the West about the hostages—also said that he believed all remaining Western hostages, including the Britons, Terry Waite, Brian Keenan, Jackie Mann and John McCarthy, are alive. Throughout the interview, his tone was highly conciliatory. He was at pains to stress that Iranian help in securing the release of a third hostage—after the recent freeing of the Americans Frank Reed and Robert Polhill—was not conditional on any concessions by the West.

"Even if the West does not show goodwill, Iran will continue its efforts for the freeing of hostages unilaterally," he said. "After the release of the two recent Western hostages we...will not be disappointed with the release of some more hostages."

On the question of whether the hostages are alive, Mr. Musavian said he could produce no documentary evidence. But he suggested that if any had died, he would be likely to know.

"There is no evidence for us that the hostage-takers have killed Iranian and Western hostages," he said. "We know about our own (Iranian) hostages. Our research shows that they are alive. Our information also shows that some of the Western hostages are alive. But we have not been able to get complete information about all of them. Because we do not have any documentary evidence that they (the Western hostages) have been killed, there is no reason why they are not alive."

Although he said Iran condemned hostage-taking, Mr Musavian did not deny that Iran had influence on the Shi'a groups in south Lebanon. "It was due to the spiritual influence of Iran that Muslim Lebanese groups showed their good intentions and released two Western hostages without preconditions from humanitarian and Islamic principles," he said.

But he said that the United States and other Western powers should exert influence on Israel to release Lebanese Shi'a prisoners held by the Israeli authorities. "Our spiritual influence in Lebanon is limited and the material and moral influence of the Western countries, like the United States and Britain, over the Phalangists and the Government of Israel who are keeping hundreds of Muslim Lebanese hostages, is unlimited," said Mr. Musavian.

If the West really wanted to solve the problems of the hostages, this was the time for practical steps to reciprocate the goodwill shown by Muslim Lebanese groups and free considerable numbers of Muslims taken hostage by Phalangists and by the Israelis.

Mr. Musavian, who is next in line in diplomatic seniority to Iran's deputy foreign minister, also said that Iran and Britain were close to restoring diplomatic relations—soured by the uproar over Salman Rushdie's book "Satanic Verses." The only remaining obstacle, he said, was the British Government's refusal to condemn blasphemy, including Rushdie's book, against Islam and other divine religions. And although he praised Mrs. Thather's recent comments that the British Government has the greatest respect for Islam, Mr. Musavian said it was still not enough.

"Mrs. Thatcher should make it clear the British Government is opposed to or condemns the insult to Islam and all other divine religions."

Then "the relationship of both governments can be improved on the basis of the normal principles of international regulations, respect for the non-violation of national sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs".

Mr. Musavian stressed that Ayatollah Khomeyni's death sentence fatwa [religious decree] against Salmam Rushdie could not be withdrawn by the Iranian political leadership. But his emphasis on "non-interference in each other's mutual affairs" implies that the present Iranian leadership, headed by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, whose position in the government has been strengthened since the earthquake, would like to let the fatwa drop. (One of Mr. Musavian's colleagues suggested last week that the situation would be eased if Rushdie were sent into "exile", as we report on page 13.) In public, however, they are unable to contradict the political legacy of Ayatollah Khomeyni: "The fatwa cannot be revoked and no one can change that verdict. It's the verdict of a divine religion and comes from God."

Nuri Denies Hostage Issue Linked to Foreign Aid

NC0107133690 Paris AFP in English 1254 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 1 (AFP)—The Iranian government Sunday dismissed the idea of a link between the foreign aid received after last month's earthquake and efforts to free Western hostages in Lebanon. Interior Minister 'Abdullah Nuri said the "time was not right" to discuss the hostages and that Tehran had done all it could to secure the release of the 15 Westerners believed held in Lebanon, mostly by pro-Iranian groups.

"There is no connection between the international assistance to earthquake victims and the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon," he said.

"The earthquake has no relation with Iran's political relations with other countries," Mr. Nuri added, saying he hoped that the aid "is not being determined on the basis of political considerations."

"The humanitarian aspect of the aid has nothing to do with the hostage issue. The Iranian position on this issue has always been clear and Tehran has done all it could do," he said.

The Iranian news agency IRNA [ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY] said Sunday that 40,000 people were killed, 60,000 injured and half a million made homeless by the June 20 quake, which devastated the northwestern Gilan and Zanjan provinces. The Iranian Red Crescent, Iran's equivalent of the Red Cross, had earlier put the toll at 40,000 dead and 50,000 injured.

The Iranian government has accepted aid from all countries except Israel and South Africa. Britain, the United States and West Germany, which all have nationals held in Lebanon, have contributed to the relief effort. The government's decision to accept aid has angered anti-Western hardliners who insist that the country should not lower its guard against outside influence.

Speaks to Newsmen

LD0107140390 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Tehran, July 1, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdullah Nuri Sunday said that the Islamic Republic welcomes "any form of foreign aid" for areas devastated by the June 21 earthquake.

Addressing a press conference also attended by foreign reporters, he said that as for international loans for reconstruction of quake-hit areas, "Iran has made no request in this regard and under the status quo it will not make such demands." But, he added, "if grants are offered, we may accept."

The minister said that the recent quake relief from abroad was on purely humanitarian grounds, and if political intentions were behind such aid, "obviously political objectives of none of the donater countries will be met."

On U.S. relief aid and whether it would lead to improvement of ties with Washington, he said: "Bilateral issues between nations and governments, whether general or fundamental are not settled with such things."

Explaining Iran's reasons for rejecting relief offered by the South African apartheid regime and the Zionist regime in Palestine, the Hojjat ol-Eslam said: "Iran does not recognize the legitimacy of these two entities."

However, he stressed that relief from countries like America and Iraq would not have the least effect on issues under discussion between Iran and these countries. "The earthquake and its aftermath will have nothing to do with our international relations as international relations have their own formula," Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri made it clear.

As for the immediate needs in the affected areas, he added that priority was given to cash donations and then to temporary settlement of the homeless survivors.

The minister said that according to latest figures for Saturday some 90,000 houses were destroyed in the two provinces of Gilan and Janjan, 65,000 of which in the first named province.

More on News Conference

LD0107194590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Excerpts] In a press conference at noon today, attended by local and foreign reporters, Interior Minister Nuri announced: According to the latest reports received up to this morning, some 90,000 houses have been ruined in the two provinces of Gilan and Zanjan. In this interview, the Interior Minister also announced: In order to arrive at an exact figure for the quake casualty level in the quake-striken regions, a population census of these regions is being seriously undertaken by the Iran Statistics Center, and as soon as this is finished people will be informed of the results.

In a reply to a foreign reporter's questions in connection with the request for international loans by Iran for the reconstruction of the quake-striken regions, he said: Iran has not made any requests in the past and has no requests to make to present either, but if there is any aid, the Islamic Republic of Iran will accept it. He termed the relief coming from abroad as a humanitarian move for our country's quake victims and added: None of this aid was asked for by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and was given due to humanitarian sympathies. He added: If it becomes clear that this aid was given with political motives, then obviously none of the countries' political objectives would be met.

Pointing to the extensive dimensions of the tragedy and the many losses resulting from the recent earthquake, the interior minister said: The figure concerning the losses involved are astronomical, and this aid was motivated by sympathy and by way of relief for the grief of a

disaster-striken nation. In connection with the nonacceptance of foriegn aid from Israel and South Africa, he said: Iran does not accept the legitimacy of these two countries. In reply to a question from another foreign reporter concerning the effect aid received from America will have on the improvement of Iran's relations with America, Nuri said: General and fundamental bilateral relations between nations and governments are not settled with such things. [passage omitted]

In connection with the elections of the Assembly of Experts, the interior minister announced: The elections of 98 representatives of the Assembly of Experts will take place on 8 October this year. Simultaneously with this, the mid-term elections of the Islamic Consultative Assembly will be staged in the two electoral constituencies of Esfahan and Fuman.

Also, in connection with the current state of the project for combatting narcotics, he said: Combatting narcotics will continue effectively and powerfully, and in the past months we had a lot of success in this connection. Referring to the point that Iran is situated along the narcotics route from the east to the west, he added: In order to have greater success in preventing narcotics from entering our country, we need to devise very extensive plans, and up to now some steps have been taken in this direction and we have also had some successes.

Foreign Ministry Rejects 'Lies' on U.S. Ties

LD0107105590 Tehran IRNA in English 1017 GMT 1 Jul 90

Tehran, July 1, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry here Sunday categorically denied reports by the UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI) alleging that an Iranian Foreign Ministry official in an interview with the UPI had said that the United States has not missed a chance for reconciliation with Iran.

"No Foreign Ministry official has given any interview to the UPI news agency," the ministry's Information and Press Bureau announced.

The UPI on Saturday [30 June] claimed to have interviewed a Foreign Ministry official who it said preferred to remain anonymous. The official was quoted by the UPI as having "hinted the United States has not lost any chance to improve relations with Iran, and the door is still open if the United States is willing to send more aid to earthquake victims."

The bureau termed such allegations as "lies" and strongly rejected them.

'Diplomatic Source' Urges UK To 'Exile' Rushdie

LD0107100290 London THE SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT in English 1 Jul 90 p 13

[Article by Kevin Toolis in Tehran: "Iranian Official Calls for Exile of Rushdie"]

[Text] British hostages will not be released nor Anglo-Iranian diplomatic relations restored until Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," is sent "into exile" in a British territory, sources close to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said last week. They also said Roger Cooper, the British businessman held in Tehran on espionage charges, had little hope of being freed until the Rushdie affair was settled.

"To keep him (Rushdie) in British territory is not in British interests," said an Iranian diplomatic source. "The British should do what the Americans did with the Shah. They sent him to Egypt and then Panama. They had a big country but they did not keep him. In some ways it helped. Britain should do the same."

Rushdie's physical removal from Britain would be a "positive card" for the pro-Western factions in the Iranian leadership, the diplomat added. "No one in Tehran can put their feet forward. They would fall. People are very sensitive. Salman Rushdie is more difficult than the Shah because he played with Islam. He insulted the Islamic Revolution."

The Rushdie "exile" plan is the latest stratagem by a clearly identifiable faction within the Iranian leadership. This is led by President and favours closer economic relations with the West. The faction's stronghold is the Foreign Ministry's Western European Bureau, whose director, General Hoseyn Musavian, is also editor-in-chief of the pro-Western English daily, the TEHRAN TIMES.

On June 9, two weeks before the earthquake, THE TEHRAN TIMES published an editorial praising Mrs. Thatcher for "making great strides" in Anglo-Iranian relations with her comments that the British Government had "the greatest respect for Islam". Despite this praise, strident anti-Americanism remains the dominant theme of the Iranian parliament, the Majlis.

The economic pragmatists or "moderates" remain wary of giving political ammunition to their more anti-Western rivals, allied to the former Interior Minister, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi. He is a key figure in the hostage crisis. As Iran's Ambassador to Syria in the mid-Eighties, by his own admission, he was instrumental in establishing the Hizballah groups which seized the British hostages Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Brian

Keenan. Mohtashemi, in a recent interview, admitted to being dedicated to "the psychological war" against the "Mafia-like" United States and compared U.S.-Iran relations to those between "the wolves and the sheep".

Diplomatic sources say the pragmatists are tightly constrained by Ayatollah Khomeyni's political legacy, which includes a death sentence on Rushdie for blasphemy.

"One year after Mao died no one in China could stand up and say he was wrong. In Iran direct contradictions of Khomeyni are impossible, it's still just a year after his death. No one can say Khomeyni was wrong. It cannot be withdrawn. It will have to be finessed," said one.

The slightest concession to the Western powers, Britain and "the great Satan", the United States, still provokes furious rhetorical barrages from the radicals. Even offers of humanitarian aid for the earthquake's victims ended in an interfactional slanging match between the Farsi and English newspapers of Iran's largest publishing house, the KAYHAN group.

Velayati To Meet Perez de Cuellar in Geneva

LD3006130990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Following the invitation of the UN secretary general to the Iranian and Iraqi foreign ministers, Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, left Tehran for Geneva this morning at the head of a delegation.

According to the Central News Unit report before leaving for Geneva, Mr. Velayati met this morning and conferred with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president. In the meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani provided necessary guidelines.

It should be added that during this trip our country's minister of foreign affairs, in addition to having discussions about ways to completely implement Security Council Resolution 598, will also take part in the United Nations Economic and Social Council session.

May Discuss Iran-Iraq Presidential Summit

LD0107095490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0715 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] Baghdad, July 1 (KUNA)—A meeting will be held in Geneva on Tuesday or Wednesday [2 or 3 July] between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and his Iranian counterpart Javier Perez de Cuellar [as received], a press report said here Sunday.

In a dispatch from Baghdad, daily "AL-WATAN" said U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will also meet separately with 'Aziz and Velayati to discuss implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Velayati left Tehran yesterday heading for Geneva on a visit announced to be aiming at meeting with Perez de Cuellar to discuss activating peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

"AL-WATAN" also learnt that Velayati and 'Aziz are likely to discuss fixing a date for a summit meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Sermon on Earthquake, Aid

LD2906175790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 29 Jun 90

[First sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the 29 June Friday Prayers in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted] Because a number of important topics of the day and the week have piled up for me to discuss, I interrupt the continuity of my usual debate in the first sermon; I shall devote both sermons to the topics of the day. Indeed, I shall devote the first sermon entirely to the earthquake—that major national disaster. The second sermon will be devoted to historic occasions.

On the earthquake I can talk a great deal but I will keep it brief. I hope the points I raise will start more debates in the press and on the pulpit of Friday prayers on the topic.

The first point to which I must refer is the earthquake as an event. I must explain the point of view of Islam and the Koran on that issue. If our society's understanding of the earthquake is not Islamic, then my brief remarks must throw light on it.

Well, we see that there are varied views and understandings with regard to it. Some regard it as a catastrophe; they think of it as a divine punishment. Others view it as a natural phenomenon, fully separate from all the human issues. There are also other viewpoints in society. Some have superstitious views. However, Islam has a very basic and logical point of view on all the natural happenings. If the Islamic society had been educated on such points and if it had prepared itself to confront phenomena like these then it would have been in a better shape than now. Islam holds that all the natural happenings are essentials of life on the planet Earth. The mere nature of life on this planet requires such things. These are not regarded as humanity's pre-determined fate. These are the kind of phenomena which happen naturally and which one can confront in a way so as to channel them into better and more correct paths. It is also possible to lessen the dangers and losses they entail. Of course it is possible for human beings to manage badly and suffer consequences. At the same time from the Islamic point of view one cannot say that all these events might have escaped God's control. One cannot say that nature is its own master and that divine power has no influence. [passage omitted]

As you know, earthquakes are also in line with other forces of nature—forces which have been gradually brought under control. There was a time in history when there was no control over epidemics. Large numbers of

people used to die of plague and cholera. But today these epidemics are brought under control. [passage omitted]

Well, earthquakes are more complicated than floods. More complicated forces are involved. One cannot forecast the occurrence of an earthquake the way one forecasts weather changes. [passage omitted] Yet, there are many in the world who have greatly reduced the danger of earthquakes—of course, at a high price. Yet, it is worth the price [passage omitted]

Recently I have studied the great earthquakes of the world; quakes similar in intensity to our recent quake had different numbers of casualties depending on where they happened. In China, for example, there were 250,000 casualties because of the density of their population and lack of facilities; recently in the Soviet Union the figure was 50,000 because they too were not fully prepared to defend themselves against earthquakes. But in America and Japan recently the casualties have been very low, though material destruction might have been very much. In our own country since a long time ago until now our position against earthquakes has remained the same—we are very vulnerable to them and we have had no specific line of defense. Henceforth we must be prepared. As an Islamic society if we had worked according to the dictate of the Koran we should not have had this kind of situation; in that case Japan would not have been in a better position than us because they do not have the Koran to guide them. [passage omitted]

It is up to us how to analyze the nature of earthquakes as a calamity. There are dangers inherent in nature but there is always a logic to it; there is an order to it. And there is the will to fight against it. Of course divine punishment brings some calamities to humanity but even that is due to humanity itself—its own deeds. Yet, sometimes we see something which we think of as a calamity but in fact it is divine blessing—a phenomenon not given to explanation. [passage omitted]

God does not accept that any calamity may be attributed to him; unless the origins of that calamity are inherent in our own deeds. God is the source of blessing and if we move on the path of God's will we will always be rewarded with goodness—even when we are struck with calamity and disaster. [passage omitted] [Her Holiness Zaynab, sister of Imam Husayn] says: Now that I look at the calamity from an Islamic point of view I see all beauty. So, when I [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] look at the earthquake now I must have such a great power of understanding that I may be able to see all beauty in it in relation to God and creation despite all the destruction—beauty in such an agony. I have heard of some individuals who, if not expressing doubt, have at least been asking themselves why should a nation with so much struggle and self-sacrifice during these 10 years be punished by God in such a way. That is not a correct analysis. In the first place we have not yet seen the conclusion of that disaster; we do not know what implementations are to be found in it eventually and so we cannot judge it as a disaster. It is a disaster in terms of casualties and so forth; but in its depth it cannot be so easily judged. On the other hand, if there is any kind of unpleasantness to it, then it relates to us—to Iran as a package. We Iranians have built our country in a way in which such events can create so many problems. I know these explanations are not enough [to convince the people] but now I must talk about the event itself. The philosophy and moral issues related to it must probably be explained in roundtable talks and similar debates by experts and theologians later on in an effort to throw more light on it. That way people may be more enlightened.

The incident was a truly gigantic incident and an extremely extensive and massive and destructive calamity. As you have heard, the earthquake occurred [was felt] in 45 percent of the territory of our country, and in one moment shook more than 700,000 square km of Iranian territory. It caused destruction in nearly 12,000 [square] km. A destruction in 12,000 square km is a very high level of destruction as compared to other earthquakes in the world. The area where the destruction has taken place has been mainly in mountainous and inaccessible areas. The main area of destruction was the mountainous area where the two provinces of Gilan and Zanjan meet. [passage omitted]

The following day when I went to the region and noticed the presence of the forces which had been mobilized since the previous day and previous night. I realized that the organizations had a serious presence there even in a spontaneous way and outside the scope of their responsibility. The roads minister had personally inspected all the roads from a helicopter and where there had been a landslide they had with great efforts and with great difficulty opened the road, or part of the road. The Air Force and the Army Aviation Corps [Havaniruz] had been mobilized extensively and speedily for the transportation of the wounded and relief facilities and relief workers. The Red Crescent with all its capabilities had been mobilized throughout the country. From the first day assistance from the [Construction] Jihad had moved from all parts of the country toward the region and hundreds of heavy machinery such as loaders, bulldozers, mechanical drills and other needed engineering equipment had been taken to the region with great difficulty—as we only had one road and parts of that road were blocked. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps had sent its forces and capabilities to the region with speed and in an extensive way. The Imam's Relief Committee had provided its capabilities. The Revolution Committee had stationed numerous forces and the commander of the Committee was stationed in Manjil and had brought Manjil under his command. Various organizations which had some responsibilities in this regard were present. The Health and Hygiene Department had mobilized is forces. Tehran's municipality had sent numereous relief workers to the region and with the Imam's Relief Committee they had accepted responsibility for supervising the works in Manjil, 90 percent of which had been destroyed. Other ministries too were to some extent present. I may not remember everyone. I am

just thinking of what we observed there on that day, with whom I talked and divided the responsibilities. Many others went there and we noticed the result of their work later. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, many of our villagers had organized themselves before assistance reached them from outside. We went to some villages and noticed that they themselves had pulled their children out of the rubble and had organized their lives with the limited resources that they had. It took two or three days for the relief workers to fully come into grips with the situation.

People's assistance is another bright spot in the issue. In reality and without wishing to exaggerate or flatter the people I should say that our people passed the test with bright colors during this incident. Some people imagined that the people who for so many years during the war had shown so much self-sacrifice and so much generosity and had given so much, to them self-sacrifice had become something quite ordinary and that the war had overshadowed everything, and that their feelings would not be so aroused to enter the field in such a way during this incident. [sentence as received] However, it is understandable that the presence of the people during this incident was more extensive even compared to the height of the war, during the extensive operations which had been carried out in the fronts, when a large number of the wounded and the martyred were taken to the cities; because the people soon realized the dimensions of the calamity. The call by the esteemed leader and the effective donation which he made at the beginning—paying 1 billion rials from the funds of the Oppressed Fondation—alerted the people to the importance of the situation. The early reports, too, were also transmitted to the people in a proper way. The presence of the people in the field of relief work is truly remarkable.

The people presented whatever they had. Indeed the people donated enough to the emergency phase of the relief works. We have also to plan another two phases. The Red Crescent and the governments's facilities were used and a satisfactory level of foreign aid was received and, as a whole, the first phase, the emergency phase, was dealt with in an appropriate manner. Of course we cannot claim about the extent, methods, and the conditions [of relief operations], you can very well understand that if an organization could have been present in all situations, then it could have performed its task faultlessly. But that could not have happened. Even assuming that such an organization existed, still that could have not been done. That [faultless relief work] could have happened if beside every village there was a heavy machine to remove the debris or if there was a hospital there to treat the injured, or if there was a helicopter beside each village to transfer the people. If that could have existed it would have been ideal. But that is a very idealistic idea.

With regard to the whole operation I think it was dealt with appropriately. On the foreign side, the Islamic Republic adopted an appropriate policy and the world, too, dealt with the issue very well.

When I say that we adopted an appropriate policy, if, for example, we had said that we can manage ourselves and do not need foreign aid, then from the next day the whole world would have become mobilized in saying that if Iran had accepted foreign aid what would have happened. [sentence as heard] It left its people to themselves and did not pay any attention to people's needs. Why did it not call for experts? Why did it not ask for medicine, ambulance, tents and so on? And they would have been right.

Indeed an organization that cannot attend to all areas, at such sensitive times, has no right to reject foreign aid on behalf of the people. People who are trapped beneath the debris, people who have no tents in the wind, in the desert. I cannot accept any human being saying, you remain where you are because we do not want to receive foreign aid. If someone, sitting in his air-conditioned building, says I do not want foreign aid, very well, they should not get it. But you also come and think of the villager with a broken leg who has to be transferred, or is in need of medicine that you do not possess, then that is not logical. If that had happened [if foreign aid had been rejected], the enemies would have had an excuse to criticize us. Of course, they also presumably have thought of the next phase of the case too.

The leader [Khamene'i] who basically determines such policies, was consulted. He said that we have no right to reject foreign aid, except from those wanting to take advantage of the situation, or those illegitimate ones, such as Israel, and their kind. That led to the government's policy being announced to the effect that we accept foreign aid.

To be fair, foreign reaction [to the quake] was also good. One should judge fairly. The volume of foreign aid is acceptable within the context of the present criteria in our foreign policy and our general conditions. I also want to draw a definite conclusion about this matter. In comparison with our people's donations or government expenditure foreign aid is very little. For example, they [foreigners] have sent at the most 2,000 tonnes of goods, albeit valuable goods. However, it cannot be compared with what the [Iranian] people themselves have donated or the government has spent at this stage. But we have no claims on others; whatever they have given is significant and deserve thanks and should accepted as a humanitarian gesture.

A point which interested me and is important to everybody—and those who are fair in the world have also made the same comment—is that what became clear in this incident as that Iran enjoys wide respect and admiration in the hearts of the people of the world. This became quite clear. [crowd chants in support] And I, too, in line with the eminent leader and as the executive head of the country, sincerely thank anyone who in any way helped us, especially those who went to the region with difficulty and helped our injured people and accepted

the risk. I hope that this wave of humanitarian sentiment will always remain and grow in the world; and I hope that help is always given to places which need it.

I was especially moved by one part of foreign assistance. Let me tell you about it: It was the way in which our brothers in Soviet Azerbaijan and the Muslim parts of the Soviet Union helped us. As you know, about 12 to 13 convoys have arrived so far in assistance, just like our own cities. Of course, it [foreign assistance] is all beautiful, but this case is particularly beautiful. Just like in our own Hezbollahi towns, the people gave their wheat, their clothes, their rice, their blankets, whatever they had. They gather it together; they make a convoy; they set out and come to the region. They deliver the goods and return. This is very sweet for us. People who have just emerged from underneath the ruins of Marxism; people who are just establising links with the Islamic world; people with regard to whom we have been unable to perform our important duty because of the current conditions; they have come to us so sincerely just like the people of our own towns. Of course, that does not diminish the value of other people's assistance. This case just had a particular quality which made it beautiful for us.

Of course, we also have shortcomings. And we will have them in the future during reconstruction as well. Undoubtedly, there are criticisms as well as now. There may be dissatisfactions. What I would like to ask people who want to criticize is that they should be fair. They should assess the dimensions of the tragedy. They should assess the resources, the state of the roads; they should put the good and the bad side by side and speak about the good as well as the bad. That is the meaning of criticisms. [passage omitted]

If criticism is taken that way it is very constructive. It is a really good thing. If that kind of criticism does not exist in a society, the bad things will always gain the upper hand. Criticism is a duty. However, if someone speaks just about the bad, about dissatisfactions, problems, harps on the shortcomings, then the ones who are trying hard will despair. [passage omitted]

There are people who live by moaning. Just like flies. They land on the sore spots, get nourishment, fly away and buzz a bit. Or like a microbe which looks for an infected spot and rapidly grows there, multiplies and finds supporters. Fair people make a fair assessment. These foreign reporters, too, who had come here—many of them were looking for weak spots of the relief work and exposing the system's weakness. And some of them said things like that. They were thinking that a war-stricken, problem-ridden, economically problem-ridden country which suddenly experiences such an extensive tragedy will undoubtedly face great difficulty. When they came to the region and saw everything arriving in time, they were unable not to make a fair assessment. Of course, they said some bad things; we have nothing against that. But most of them said that the Iranian speed and precision was beyond expectation. There were some of the same people, many of whom had also been to the Soviet Union. They compared Iran with the earthquake in Armenia in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is such a large country and has such immense resources under the control of the party. They compared here and there. They praised the way things were managed here, the presence of the people, the speed of action. Of course, there were problems as well and they should be mentioned.

Let me just say something for the future, for the next stage. We have two very difficult stages ahead of us, which we must complete: One is temporary housing and the other is permanent reconstruction of the region. Let me explain a bit so that you know our own duties as well. At the moment we have approximately 100,000 families—that is not exact, it may be more than that—100,000 households which are homeless must be given shelter for an indefinite length of time.

Sometimes there are cases like war-stricken people: We brought the war-stricken to towns, to schools, to hotels, to camps. We would find an appropriately warm weather in the desert somewhere and pitch a tent. They would stay there. These people are not like that. They must be near their homes because they have crops in the ground; they have livestock in the field. They have extensive resources which if they leave they cannot return to: their brooks, their water source, their wells. Everything which they have needs care. They must be near their livelihood. [passage omitted]

Their initial housing must be in tents. That is the state we are in now. We know that it will not be possible to stay in tents in two or three months. We must think of something. At this very moment designers are trying to think of provisional housing between this stage and the final stage when houses are built so that they can live their lives and be near their work. [passsage omitted]

The more difficult stage is reconstructing the region. We still do not have an accurate assessment of the damage. Yesterday, the head of the Planning and Budget Organization said on an initial assessment that in Gilan it was a matter of 50 billion tomans. It will also be a significant amount in Qazvin and Zanjan. I do not know how much exactly but that is the extent of the damage. Reconstruction will cost more than that because we cannot assume that a mud dwelling which was worth 3,000 tomans will cost the same to rebuild. Undoubtedly, that house will change. There will be new conditions. We must devote a huge sum and we must reconstruct over a fairly long period of time. Of course that is completely possible for us. We are not a desperate country. Your country is a strong country. That will represnt a very small proportion of our Five-Year Plan. Some people were asking us whether the plan would be ruined this year. We examined the matter and saw that it would not affect the Plan. We must just be careful to save where we can and to put things off where we can. We must think of new resources. It will not affect the plan. The government is well able to cope with this with the people's assistance. Nonetheless, it is a difficult long-term task. There will undoubtedly be

dissatisfied people. Just now when our officials to to the villages, the villagers gather round and say: We need more than tents. [passage omitted]

Our main difficulty at this stage is construction material. Even without the earthquake we were short of construction material. In this year's plan alone, for our existing programs, we need 6 million tonnes of metal; that is for programs which we have drawn up and guaranteed. We need 22 million tonnes of cement. Now that we need more of such things, the figures will naturally be affected. But as I said, in the plan as a whole, such things can be accommodated and it will be done. We will have problems with regard to building material. For that reason we are to some extent dependent on foreign countries, especially as far as metals are concerned. as well as some wooden material and some other construction material. We will accept foreign assistance in the future in this area. Of course, there will be foreign assistance in this urgent stage only. In the future we must definitely count more on our own resources and rely on them. The efforts of our officials, our people and our construction forces will be very effective in this regard.

Incidentally, our security forces have a great responsibility in the region. In this very difficult period as well, they were all on the scene. I mentioned the [Islamic Revolution] Committee already. In all fairness, the Gendarmerie organized transport very well. Its forces were on the road. The police had a serious presence there; in places were there was danger. However, in this next stage, the presence of security forces must be even more seriously felt because corrupt and dishonest people—the kind of people who live by smuggling, hoarding, stealing, and the like, that kind of corrupt strata—they will undoubtedly try to take advantage of the disturbed circumstances in the region; both to weaken the morale of the people and to gain benefit and spread corruption. Our security forces must remain until full security has bene established in the region. We are certain they will remain.

On the whole, until this moment, you have withstood this tragedy in a manner which is worthy of a revolutionary Islamic ummah. In the future, too, you will, God willing, maintain that state until the reconstruction of this region and our war- stricken zones. We will, God willing, together and united put these programs behind us and we will build the region in a way which will be better than it was before. [crowd chants in support] May God keep you. Thanks very much. I am only a small individual. Thanks very much. [crowd chants again] The people who were seriously present in the relief work were just those basijis [mobilization personel] who also fought in the war. And those basijis must also lend their assistance in this period. In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted]

Views Mecca 'Tragedy'

LD2906202490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1235 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Second sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the 29 June Friday Prayers in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] The first sermon was very long, so I will make the second sermon brief. [passage omitted]

I will refer to two or three occasions in this sermon. One is the 28 June [explosion at Islamic Republican party headquarters in 1981] tragedy and the other is the bloody Friday tragedy [massacre of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca], and the other about the judicial seminar this week.

The first two occasions can be analyzed generally, and, incidentally, they nearly coincide this year. Yesterday was 28 June and today is the anniversary of the bloody Mecca Friday. Both incidents were pre-planned, mischievous and inhuman, against the Islamic Republic and pure, noble Islam. The former has more of a domestic aspect and the latter more of an external aspect. However, they have many points in common. I will now speak briefly about them.

The 28 June tragedy was one of most unprecedented in the history of world revolutions. [passage omitted]

It happened when all the factions opposed to the imam were disheartened about reaching their goals. A combination of East and West, outside the country, left and right, inside the country, and reaction and Zionism, inside and outside the country, were all directly or indirectly involved in the incident. It was an amazing incident. [passage omitted]

Today, at this sacred ceremony of the Friday prayers, we convey our salutations to the pure souls of our dear martyrs, and all those who were martyred in the path of justice and Islam. We say to them: While you are resting close to the Almighty God, you are inevitably witnessing the continuation of your path and the way your comrades and companions, having picked up those rifles which had fallen from your hands, are pursuing the Islamic jihad; you are witnessing the vigour of the Islamic revolution and the way the line of pure Islam is growing throughout the country and the Islamic world.

The same analysis applies to the bloody Friday [in Mecca], albeit from another dimension and in a different context. The Islamic base was considered as impregnable from within; our combatants were constantly striving forward on the war fronts; the presence of the revolutionary, Islamic, and dedicated forces in the hajj ceremonies—the base which was built to serve as the apex of the Islamic ideological propagation, which is the principle philosophy of the hajj—had come under the influence of the trend of pure Islam. A great number of people throughout the world, went on their hajj hoping to see

Iranians, and to take back a keepsake from the Islamic revolution to their countries. This was a clear issue; one which was not concealed from the eyes of the American and Zionist spies, nor was it concealed from the eyes of their agents in the Islamic countries. Just as here, the line of the imam, the party of the Islamic Republic and its leaders, were portrayed as a threat to the deviated trends [jariyanha-e enherafi]; so the presence of the Islamic revolution in Mecca was likewise portrayed as a threat to the international deviated trends in the Islamic world—an issue which is not far from the truth.

They began to contemplate barring us from [carrying out] the hajj, and they planned to do that in two ways: either to appease the Islamic ummah by convincing them to emulate their presence in Mecca so that they may not pose a threat to them or to preclude them from providing the Muslims with any inspirations; or else to completely cut us off from the hajj ceremony. The first method would have probably been to their greater advantage, had they managed to portray us to the people, without our inspirations, our revolution, but like them, as representatives of an insipid, and mediocre customary religious tradition. That was their principle intention. But they failed notwithstanding their negotiations, appeals, and supplications. In our view, at that time, it was America who was the architect of that design, since there is no doubt that Arabestan [Saudi Arabia] lacked the courage to carry it out on its own; even America was not alone in this with Arabestan, but at that time the reactionaries in the region had united in respect of that issue—that is to say the Iraqis and the others.

Our collective enemy masterminded the plot in which they also used their agents inside the country—that is to say the Monafeqin [hypocrites—derogatory term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] who had come from their midst. The plot was completed through the perpetration of that tragedy in such a bloody manner—you are all aware and have heard of all these issues, so I will only refer to the outcome of their action. They may be pleased with their initiative temporarily, since I believe that this time the hajj ceremony is taking place without any Islamic slogans of struggle against blasphemy, Zionism, reactionary thought and so on. But they are indeed mistaken. This is a vain belief; we know that from our experiences in the period of our struggle. The suffocation of a trend which manages to render itself audible in other areas and is present in another form, is of no benefit to them; it is tantamount to the closure of a cavity whereby hundreds of other cavities erupt around it to open the passage of that movement. They cannot think that just because the people have not heard our cries of God is great in Mecca, they will not hear it in the mosques and the other Islamic centers of congregation either; they certainly have. One day they will regret it. The cries are carried alongside the oppressions, twice as loud as before. If the suffocation of Imam Husayn's voice in Karbala did not bear any fruit for the household of Yazid [caliph who killed Imam Husayn] and Ibn-Ziyad, then the suffocation of the voice of pure Islam in Mecca could not bear effective fruit for the house of Sa'ud. Of course, the responsibility lies much higher than that, and in our view the house of Sa'ud are only the mere executors of it for America. The sincere believers in the world regard our absence as an injustice, as the violation of Islam, as the violation of the Koran, as an affront to the Ka'abah, and the houses of God, the more manifest and potent the color of the injustice of this deprivation becomes, the greater the impact of our absence and our innocence is felt by the Muslim people in their hearts.

You can see its effects all over the world today: in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and in Europe itself. Those elections held in the world, in which Islamic parties have received a high number of votes; those movements in Kashmir, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and other countries; and that global esteem enjoyed by the Islamic Republic, the signs of which you witnessed in the earthquake tragedy. All that is proof that others have heard our voice from Mecca.

And today, when people return from Mecca to their countries, they are sorry about the absence of Iranians there. Those who had witnessed our epic-making presence at Mecca for many years and can no longer hear the beautiful and attractive call of God is great from earnest, pious and unarrogant people at Mecca, return home with regret and sorrow and curse America, the house of Sa'ud, and all those whose hands were tainted with the blood of our dear martyrs in Mecca.

Of course, we are not happy with this situation. We are not satisfied with our continued absence. We shall use everything at our disposal and shall definitely join the ranks of the pilgrims once again. We hope the Saudi rulers will stop being so obstinate, that we will see waves of God-loving, revolutionary, Muslim people in Mecca and Medina this time next year. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Issues Message on Hajj 'Tragedy'

LD2806212890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jun 90

[Text] On the eve of the bloody tragedy at holy Mecca, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and custodian of the order of Muslims, sent a message to the world's Muslims as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Every year the coming of the hajj period is accompanied by the joy and eagerness of devotees and hopeful souls from all over the Muslim world to tread the path to the holy shrine and worship in their beloved promised land; to spend the period in piety and prayers and be in the shelter of God's benevolence and mercy; to see their brothers from far corners of the world and feel the glory of the Islamic peoples in a living, tangible symbol.

But during this period, together with its earnest enthusiasm to be present in that great burial place of hearts, bodies, and efforts, our oppressed and pure nation feels two great sorrows and two heart-rending tragedies, and

complains about them to God, his great prophet, and God's great vice regent [Imam Mahdi]. The first is the unforgettable pain of the martyrdom of those who were mowed down by the vengeful, spiteful blades of the Saudi rulers at God's sanctum sanctorum three years ago for disavowing the pagans. Those pious and earnest subjects were innocently martyred in the house of God, their own house, by xenophiles and the ungodly, to please foreigners and enemies, and to put a brand of shame on the foreheads of the despotic and traitorous rulers of Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] with their wrongly shed blood.

The second is the pain of being away from the house of God, being deprived of performing the hajj rites, and being banned from taking part in the general gathering of Muslims, imposed on them by mercenaries closing the door of the house of God to them.

It is one of the most telling incidents in the present volatile era for a nation, which is the most faithful to Islam and the most sacrificing for the sake of God, to be kept out of God's house and banned from carrying out its Islamic duty.

The other side of this amazing tale is that God's shrine is safe for U.S. advisors and oil company owners, but unsafe for selfless Muslims, and is filled with hundreds of hazards. This is a strange tale, which tells of an extremely outrageous situation and which naturally promises change and a rational future.

In harmony with the Saudi liars, international mouthpieces said on that day that the Iranians had been killed in response to their attack on armed Saudi guards, that the number of their dead was not that high, and that the same number of Mecca military men had been killed. It is a wonder how defenseless pilgrims, armed with nothing but firm resolve, deep faith, and a devotion to self-sacrifice, could kill trained Saudi guards or initiate an attack on them. And how could one have any doubts about the number of martyrs in the tragedy? Were more than 400 dead bodies carried from Mecca to Iran not proof enough of the extent of the crime? And today, those same mouthpieces and liars are trying to minimize or deny the crime of the house of Sa'ud in barring Iranian pilgrims.

The Islamic Republic government has done, and will continue to do, everything in its power to open the gates to the promised Mecca. However, the pretenders to the custodianship of the two holy mosques insist on barring pilgrims who have understood the true meaning of hajj and have combined monotheism with a disavowal of pagans.

There is no sorrow greater than to see those who claim to serve the holy shrines and hold the key to the house of God in America's service and fear the call to unity by Muslims and the disavowal of America and Zionism. Consequently now, which is the time for Muslims to rise and sing Islam's fundamental slogans, hajj, that great nation-making and enemy-breaking phenomenon, has lost its true concept, and its meaning is not in proportion to its greatness and glory.

Hajj can revive the spirit of monotheism, sew together different factions of the great Islamic peoples, return greatness to Muslims, and save them from the degradation and misery imposed on them. Hajj can cure the pains of Muslims and cure their biggest ailment—the cultural, economic, and political domination by arrogance and blasphemy. Hajj can rid the heart of tendencies which bring about bondage, and in return it can strengthen the bond with God and his subjects in each and every Muslim. For that reason the politicians ruling over Hejaz fear and cannot tolerate true hajj, which has a divine and political content.

Our pious and combative nation has been banned from hajj, solely on the charge of trying to bring back the true spirit and concept of hajj and to combine the worship of God with the disavowal of pagans, which is part and parcel of the concept of worship.

But neither the rulers of Hejaz nor those behind the scenes, who dictate these treacherous policies to them for the sake of their own colonialistic interests, will be able to pevent hajj from returning to its correct form.

Today the Muslim nations have awakened and are moving toward the rule of Islam. Today Islamic slogans, which until recently were only heard from our progressive and pioneering nation, have become more widespread and popular among other Muslim nations, and have restored the sense of Islamic identity, from East to West, and in every part of the world of Islam.

How long will the arrogant politicians be able to prevent the pilgrimage of youths from Islamic countries? How long will they be able to bar the entry of alert Muslims from Islamic countries into Mecca and Medina?

Today the saga of Islam is creating an upheaval in the political situation in north Africa and some other Islamic countries. Will they be able to prevent the pilgrimage of peoples from those countries?

We consider pilgrimage to the two holy mosques as the absolute right of our nation. With all our might, we demand it of the house of Sa'ud who are violating that absolute right, and will retrieve it from them by relying on God's strength.

The front of arrogance and blasphemy should be aware that the future belongs to Islam, that no scheme or power could stem the ever-increasing authority of Islam, the propagation of Islamic slogans, and the values in Muslim societies.

Our dear nation should also know—and it does know—that the greatness and glory of Islam, which has evolved thanks to their uprising and self-sacrifices since the revolution, daily increases their greatness and glory, and that enemy ploys are ineffective in the face of their patient and brave resistance.

Arrogance and its lackeys are doomed to retreat in the face of the rising tide of Islam. The pure blood of the martyrs of Mecca and other martyrs of the Islamic

revolution has paved the way for the advance of Islam in the world and raised the banner of Islam in many parts of the world.

The pilgrims to the holy house of God and those brothers and sisters from all over the world who gather at the house of God this year should strive to make hajj Abraham fashion and Muhammad fashion, by discussing the problems facing the Muslims, trying to unite Muslims—which is the principal prerequisite to the salvation of Muslims from the clutches of the empire of gold, bullying, and world domination—propagate the fundamental precepts of Islam, and exchange views on the great duties of Muslims in contemporary times.

The slogan of eradicating the malignant tumor of Israel, which was raised by the great leader of Islam, Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his soul—should be strongly and loudly shouted, despite the wishes of compromising politicians, and should become the common voice of the Muslims of hajj.

The separating of religion from politics, which is an age-old enemy plot to isolate Islam and the Koran, must be strongly condemned, and the projection of religion in all Islamic countries to combat collonialist and arrogant policies should be considered as a lesson to all Muslim nations.

Although this year too your combative, brave, and self-sacrificing brothers from Iran are not among the pilgrims, and the lackeys of America and Israel have barred their way to Mecca, they are there in spirit. Their slogans, words, and heartfelt wishes are heard by all those who care about the integrity of Islam and Muslims.

I pray to God Almighty for the victory of Islam and the Muslims. I hope that the perseverence, resistance, alertness, and awareness of Muslims, particularly the religious scholars, philosophers, the enlightened ones, writers, and poets in Islamic countries, and their attention to the gravity of their responsibility will cut the influence of the arrogant and oppressors from Islamic societies, and that the greatness and glory intended by God for the pious returns to Muslim societies. God is the guardian of success.

[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i.

[Dated] 28 June 1990.

Central Bank Details Quake Relief Measures

LD2906104590 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Zanjan, June 29, IRNA—One billion rials (over $14 mn) in cash has been contributed by the country's banking staff as relief aid for reconstruction of quake-stricken areas of Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli said Thursday.

He also said that the Cash and Credit Council of the Central Bank will hold an emergency session next week to defer repayment of loans given to farmers of quake-stricken areas.

The Central Bank is also ready to provide facilities for packing agricultural products of the said areas and sending them to the markets, said Adeli.

"We are also ready to help reconstruct residential complexes in the affected areas," he added.

The branches of the Sepah Bank in Ab Bar and Gilvan villages of Zanjan resumed work Thursday, a week after being totally destroyed by the severe quake, which measured 7.3 degrees on the Richter Scale.

In Manjil also the rebuilt branch of the Sepah Bank was opened the same day.

Three More Quakes Rock Semnan 28 Jun

LD3006130290 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Semnan, June 30, IRNA—Three relatively strong earthquakes rocked Semnan and its vicinity Thursday [28 June] evening and night. The quakes occured at 17:01, 17:42 and 22:27 hours local time (13:31, 14:12, 18:57 hours GMT) with intensities of 4.2, 4.5 and 3.9 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale. The epicenter of the tremors was 200 kms east of Tehran near Semnan, reported the Geophysics Center of Tehran University Saturday [30 June]. An official of the center said that the quakes had nothing to do with the June 21 devastating earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan provinces which had an intensity of 7.3 degrees on the Richter scale.

No reports are available yet on probable casualties and damage.

Meanwhile, several after-shocks jolted the earthquake stricken areas in northern and northwestern Iran from Thursday night till Saturday morning. The strongest of the tremors occured at 20:51 hours local time (17:21 hours GMT) last Thursday with an intensity of five degrees on the open ended Richter scale. Two other after-shocks jolted an area 200 kms northwest of the center at 16:17 and 07:12 hours local time (02:47 and 03:42 hours GMT) Saturday.

Experts at the center believe that the decline in the number of the after-shocks indicates that the situation is gradually returning to normal.

Pakistan

Kashmir President Challenges New Premier

BK3006010090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1812 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, June 29 (AFP)—The transfer of power Friday [29 June] in

Pakistan-controlled Kashmir to a new premier allied to Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was challenged by the territory's incumbent president. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, accusing the Pakistan Government of organizing the "overthrow" of his party's government, refused to administer the oath of office to Mumtaz Hussain Rathod after his election as premier by the assembly. Mr. Rathod, who won 29 votes to the 15 polled by his main rival, was instead inducted by the speaker of the legislative assembly, Sahibzada Ishaq Zafar.

In a written statement, President Qayyum Khan said the Bhutto government had interfered in the "internal affairs" of the state, adding "it had no right to manipulate into office a regime of its choice."

The Kashmir wing of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) emerged as the single largest group in the 48-member legislature following elections on May 21. It formed an alliance with the Azad Muslim Conference party whose leader Sultan Mahmud Chaudhry was nominated as a joint candidate for the post of president of Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

Mr. Qayyum Khan alleged that the new premier was "involved in the murder of eight people during the recent state elections."

Mr. Rathod took over from Sardar Sikandar Hayat of the Muslim Conference, who has been premier for the past five years and was candidate for re-election to the office. In his opening address, Mr. Rathod told the assembly, "The new government will channel all its resources for the liberation of (Indian) occupied Kashmir." He also pledged that his government would set up "an Islamic welfare state in the liberated territory to provide justice to all," with the cooperation of its allies.

New Premier Assumes Office 29 Jun

BK3006015090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathod has said that a new cabinet of the state will be announced today, which will consist of eight or nine members. He said this while talking to newsmen after taking the oath of his office in Muzaffarabad yesterday.

Bhutto Meets Newly Elected Azad Kashmir Leaders

BK0207064590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jul 90 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the induction of a democratically elected government in Azad Kashmir will have a salutary effect on occupied Kashmir. She was talking to the newly elected prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Mumutaz Hussain Rathod, who has been nominated as the president of the territory, and Mr. Sultan Mahmud at a dinner in Islamabad last evening. The prime minister said the elected government in Azad Kashmir would have direct positive bearing on the other side of the Line of Control where the sentiments of the masses were being crushed with the use of indiscriminate force. She said the press has been gagged in occupied Kashmir, and that there was total denial of democracy and an open violation of basic human rights.

Assuring the Azad Jammu and Kashmir government of Pakistan's fullest support, Benazir Bhutto said elected members of the legislative assembly and notables should be included in special delegations to be sent abroad to plead the cause of Kashmir.

The prime minister said the Pakistan People's Party does not believe in politics of personalities or individuals. She said Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathod was elected to the office of prime minister as he commanded the majority in the legislative assembly. She commended the services of Sardar Ibrahim Khan of the party and hoped he would recognize the reality and promote democratic traditions by adhering to the democratic path.

Speaking on the occasion, the Azad Kashmir prime minister said he would uphold constitutional and democratic principles and would work for the development of the territory.

Kashmiri Leader To Seek British Support

BK0207122990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Islamabad, July 2 (AFP)—Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, president-designate of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, said Monday [2 July] he was leaving later in the day for London for talks with British Government officials on the Kashmir issue. Mr. Chaudhry, 35, told reporters here that he was expecting to have meetings with officials of the British foreign office and representatives of Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group. He will also hold talks with parliamentarians to seek diplomatic support for the Moslem-led movement in Indian-held Kashmir against New Delhi's rule.

Mr. Chaudry is chief of the Azad Muslim Conference (AMC), an ally of the government—led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party—in the territory known as Azad (Free) Kashmir. He was nominated as state president after May 21 elections.

Mr. Chaudry said the purpose of his visit was to inform British officials and intellectuals about the "atrocities the Indians were committing to crush Kashmiri Moslems' struggle for their right to self-determination."

More than 700 people have been killed so far this year in violence related to the separatist movement in Indian-held Kashmir. Pakistan, denying repeated Indian charges of interference in Kashmir, has described the movement as an indigenous "outburst of prolonged suppression."

Mr. Chaudhry said he had been formally briefed by the foreign office on the Kashmir issue and was confident that Pakistan was committed to a 1948 United Nations resolution that recommended holding a plebiscite in Indian-held Kashmir on the preference for Indian or Pakistani rule.

Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries are scheduled to meet here July 18 to discuss ways of defusing border tension, after both sides massed their forces amid fears of a fourth Indo-Pakistan war.

Mr. Chaudhry said he was confident that Pakistan would insist at these talks on the Kashmiris' right to determine their future freely. He also said that freeing Kashmir from India was the "top priority" of the new government in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, and said the Kashmiri movement would bear fruit "within the next few months."

Sri Lanka

Ministry Says Maldives To Host SAARC Summit

BK2906034490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Sri Lanka has agreed to let the Maldives host SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] summit this year. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Colombo that a decision to this effect was taken at yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting. The meeting was chaired by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Sri Lanka To Host 1991 Summit

BK2906115790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 29 (AFP)—Sri Lanka has dropped plans to hold a seven-nation South Asian heads of state summit this year that it earlier was insisting on hosting, official sources said Friday [29 June]. The government would, however, want Colombo to be chosen as the venue for the sixth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in 1991, the sources here said.

Sri Lanka and the Maldives had earlier clashed over the venue for SAARC's 1990 summit, with Colombo insisting that it be allowed to host a heads of state meeting before the one due in Male in November.

A top official said that Colombo's decision was in the process of being conveyed to both the Maldives and Pakistan, the current chair of SAARC, which was formed in 1985.

The sources gave no reason for Colombo's volte-face, but diplomats here said it was due to the escalating military conflict between the government troops and Tamil rebels in Sri Lanka's northeast. The conflict has sparked off security concerns in Colombo, where the heads of states of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan were to converge.

The Maldives announced on June 22 that it was willing to allow Colombo to host the next SAARC summit if the seven member countries promised to meet again in Male in November as scheduled. Previous summits have taken place in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and India.

Sri Lanka was scheduled to hold a SAARC summit in November 1989, but declined because of the Indian troop presence in the island's northeast under a July 1987 bilateral pact designed to end Tamil separatism. Indian troops quit Sri Lanka in March this year. Colombo then announced that it was willing to host the cancelled summit in April or May 1990. But Male, which had been given the 1990 summit, protested vehemently. Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom ruled out two conferences in one year, angering Colombo which threatened to boycott the Male conference.

The official sources said Sri Lanka would however attend the November summit, and added that a formal announcement about Colombo's decision would be made "very shortly."

Self-Exiled Minister Expelled From Mauritius

BK2706140890 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 17 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] New Delhi, 16 June—The chief minister of Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province, Varadaraja Perumal, is currently in Australia. The Australian Government has, however, limited his stay to one month.

Varadaraja Perumal left Sri Lanka after the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force. He could not continue to live in Sri Lanka as the Tamil province had come under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

He then migrated to Mauritius. The Mauritius Government, however, has not taken kindly to his residence there. It alleged that the militants accompanying him were smuggling arms and told the Indian Government that he should quit the country. Mr. Perumal then left Port Louis for Australia. But, it has been reported that the Australian Government has informed the Indian Government that it can accommodate Varadaraja Perumal for only one month.

Reportage on Fighting in Northeast Provinces

Rebels Intensify Attacks

BK2906084090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 29 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka have intensified their attacks on a key army garrison in the north as fighting between rebels and troops in the Northeast entered its 19th day Friday [29 June], officials here said.

Security forces also stumbled upon 14 bodies of policemen massacred by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE) and buried in a cemetery in Sri Lanka's east, a military spokesman said.

The spokesman said the LTTE rebels pounded the army camp housed in an old Dutch-built fort in Jaffna Thursday night [29 June] and in the early hours of Friday [30 June]. The fort, under seige since the first day of fighting between government troops and guerrillas on June 11, came under mortar, rocket and machine-gun fire from the LTTE, the spokesman said. He added that the Palali and Kilinochchi army camps in the north had also come under heavy but sporadic mortar and rocket attacks by the guerrillas.

The spokesman did not say if the Air Force had retaliated against rebel positions around the fort but said "normal steps had been taken." This is construed by observers here as bombing of rebel positions by the Air Force.

The seige has virtually cut off food supplies to some 250 soldiers and policemen in the fort and prevented Colombo from evacuating an army officer and six soldiers who are lying injured inside the garrison. But the Air Force has managed to drop some food to the starving defenders amid intense rebel fire.

Officials said fighting between government troops and the Tigers was continuing elsewhere in the island's Tamil-majority northeast though the rebels had suffered a series of setbacks in the multi-racial Eastern Province.

The military spokesman said security forces discovered the bodies of 14 policemen butchered by the guerrillas and buried in a cemetery close to Uppuveli in eastern Trincomalee District. The bodies of the policemen, all of whom had been shot, were found Thursday during mopping up operations in the area, the spokesman said.

At least 175 of some 600 policemen seized by the LTTE on the first day of fighting, have been accounted for as dead but Colombo has accused the LTTE of slaughtering all of them, an allegation denied by the rebels.

More than 1,100 people have been killed since fighting erupted between government troops and the guerrillas, official and unofficial sources here say.

Two soldiers were killed and 13 others wounded in fierce fighting between troops and the LTTE in northern Vavuniya District Thursday, the spokesman said, adding that the troops had killed several rebels including two regional leaders.

He also said the troops were facing stiff resistance from the LTTE in northwestern Mannar District where nine soldiers were injured Thursday after being attacked by mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. Minefields in the area were also hampering clearing up operations, the spokesman said.

Security forces also seized several arms and ammunition during operations in eastern Sri Lanka Thursday.

In Tandiadi in Pottuvil, guerrillas exchanging fire with troops retreated into nearby jungles leaving behind a heap of grenades and ammunition, the spokesman said. Arms and ammunition including AK-47 rifles and detonators were also found in abandoned LTTE camps in eastern Ampara and Sinhalese-majority Polonnaruwa Districts, he added.

Troops Screen for Rebels

BK2906124290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1219 GMT 29 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 29 (AFP)—Security forces imposed a curfew and launched a massive screening operation Friday [29 June] in a Sri Lankan coastal town to flush out Tamil separatist guerrillas, residents said. Troops ordered all males aged over 12 in Batticaloa town to assemble at select points where hooded men from Tamil groups opposed to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) screened suspected LTTE members. Hundreds of youths and men assembled at a government school, a church and two Hindu temples in Batticaloa following the army announcement, made over loud hailers fitted on vehicles, the residents said by telephone.

"It was a massive affair," said a senior resident. "There was a lot of panic but fortunately the soldiers were courteous."

Some 60 youths were detained by soldiers after the screening and removed to unspecified destinations, the residents said. They said the screening operation, and the curfew, lasted some three hours during which Batticaloa turned a ghost town, with its female citizens and young boys confined to their homes.

One resident said the "spotters," or the hooded men, were also looking for members of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation (EROS), a Tamil group which has 13 members in federal parliament and is known to be close to the LTTE.

No further details were available.

The LTTE resumed its separatist war against Colombo June 11 after 14 months of peace talks.

LTTE Reports Bombing, Destruction

BK3006055690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 30 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Air Force planes and helicopters have caused widespread destruction in the island's Tamil-majority northern province, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) charged Saturday [30 June]. The LTTE said in a statement received here from London that "relentless aerial bombardment" on densely populated areas had severely damaged houses and buildings, including an orphanage, in Jaffna and Killinochchi districts. It said houses and buildings around the Jaffna Fort, where some 250 army soldiers and policemen have been trapped since fighting

erupted in Sri Lanka June 11, "were set ablaze when the attacking aircraft dropped 55-kilogram bombs."

There was no immediate confirmation of the LTTE accusations from the Sri Lankan Government, but Colombo has admitted to strafing and bombings in Jaffna, a known Tiger stronghold.

The LTTE said that six bomber aircraft and two helicopter gunships bombed the exclusively Tamil-inhabited Jaffna town throughout Friday afternoon. It said Kilinochchi town, south of the Jaffna peninsula, also came under aerial attacks. A home for the orphans, a school, a church and the small town's main water tank took direct hits and were destroyed, it added.

LTTE rebels also fought Sri Lankan troops for more than an hour when they tried to move out of a camp in northwestern Mannar district, killing three men, the statement said. Several others were wounded.

Also in Mannar, a Sri Lankan helicopter opened fire on a group of people travelling by a tractor-trolley, killing one person and injuring three more, the statement said.

According to official and unofficial sources, more than 1,150 people have been killed across Sri Lanka's northeast since the LTTE renewed its separatist campaign June 11 after more than a year of peace talks with Colombo.

'Massive' Searches for Rebels Continue

BK3006084090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0820 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 30 (AFP)—Security forces are carrying out a massive house-to-house sweep in Sri Lanka's east for Tamil rebels, screening thousands of men, officials and residents said Saturday [30 June]. Armed soldiers, backed by elite commandos and police, were conducting the search operations in several towns and villages in the coastal belts of eastern Batticaloa and Ampara districts, residents reached there by telephone said.

"The searches are still going on," said a Moslem resident of Kalmunai town, nearly 390 kilometers (240 miles) from here. "They are mainly looking for Tamil boys but are also picking up Moslems."

A military spokesman here said 14 "Tigers", or activists of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), were detained at Veeramunai village in Ampara district after at least 1,000 youths and men were screened.

Seventy-five others were arrested Friday [29 June] in Batticaloa town after army officials ordered all males over the age of 12 years to gather at a government school, a church and two Hindu temples. In Batticaloa, authorities clamped a curfew during the screening.

"The STF (Special Task Force) is also continuing clearing operations in Kalmunai, Pottuvil and Komari" on the east coast, the military spokesman added without giving further details.

Tamil sources here said that the troops were being assisted by members of Tamil groups opposed to the powerful LTTE and by arrested Tigers, who residents said often wore black hoods.

Residents reported similar operations at Karaitivu and Sainthamaruthu in Ampara district and at Vellaveli and Paddiruppu in adjoining Batticaloa. It was not clear how many people were detained in these places.

The search operations came on the eve of a visit to the region by Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, who was to be accompanied by local politicians.

Hundreds of guerrillas of the LTTE, which resumed its separatist campaign June 11 after a year of peace talks with the government, have taken to the jungles in the northeast of Sri Lanka to wage a bush war. Military officials say they are now concentrating on clearing the Eastern Province of the LTTE, the most powerful Tamil group which fought Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka from October 1987 for more than two years.

Foreign Secretary To Brief India

BK3006070290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] New Delhi, June 30 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's foreign secretary will visit New Delhi Monday [2 July] to brief his Indian counterpart on fighting between government forces and Tamil separatists on the island, diplomatic sources here said Friday [29 June]. A Sri Lankan High Commission (Embassy) source confirmed that Mr. Bernard Tilakaratna was scheduled to fly here Monday for talks with Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey, the first such visit since fighting broke out June 11.

The diplomatic sources said they understood the primary purpose of the visit was to keep the Indian Government informed first hand of the situation in Sri Lanka's northeast, where government troops are locked in intense combat with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The visit follows firm assurances from Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral to Colombo's top envoy here, Stanley Kalpage, that India had no intention of intervening in the conflict. Indian troops pulled out of Sri Lanka—where they had been stationed under a pact designed to end the island's ethnic conflict—in March after fighting the LTTE for 32 months. Some 1,200 Indian troops died in the conflict.

The visit of Mr. Tilakaratna, a former high commissioner here, was understood to be at Colombo's initiative, the diplomatic sources said. They added that he was also expected to reassure the Indian Government that civilian casualties were being kept to a minimum.

Rebels Reportedly Poison Wells

BK3006091490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the retreating LTTE militants have poisoned wells and planted landmines where government troops are advancing along the eastern coast. Military officials today claimed that at least eight soldiers lost their feet after stepping on mines near the Trincomalee city. Three other soldiers fell ill after drinking water from wells in villages evacuated by the LTTE. The army has been forced to transport drinking water to frontline troops near Trincomalee. Reports say the government troops have recaptured most towns along the east coast. However, in northern Jaffna the LTTE militants are in command. The siege of the Jaffna Fort also continues.

Meanwhile, the Eelam Revolution Organization of Students, known as EROS, has appealed to the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Premadasa, to renew the contacts with the LTTE to defuse the situation in the northeast. In a letter, the EROS leader, Mr. V. Balakumar, appealed to the president to show a kind gesture toward the Tamil people.

Group Urges Talks Resumption

BK3006105290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] Colombo, June 30 (AFP)—A Tamil group has urged Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa to resume peace talks with Tamil Tiger guerrillas and halt bombing the island's north, a spokesman said Saturday [30 June].

"Please diffuse the situation by directly contacting the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam)," Velupillai Balakumar, leader of the Eelavar Democratic Front (EDF), said in a letter to the president. An EDF spokesman said the letter was given to Mr. Premadasa by a party MP Thursday [28 June] on behalf of Mr. Balakumar, who is said to be stranded in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

The letter added that the "particulars" for contacting the LTTE, which resumed its separatist war June 11, were with Federal Justice Minister Shahul Hameed, who has been the government's chief negotiator with Tamil rebels.

Mr. Balakumar also called for an immediate halt to air raids on Jaffna town and for "stopping all acts of revenge by the security forces in the eastern districts of Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Ampara."

The Air Force has repeatedly bombed areas around Jaffna Fort, on the outskirts of the town, in a bid to end the siege by the LTTE of some 250 police and army soldiers inside.

Mr. Balakumar, whose group is known to be close to the LTTE, said that continued hostilities and attempts to wipe out the Tigers "would only make the people to support the LTTE more and more." He added: "The time has not run out... I am confident that with your excellency's broad vision, mature foresight and good intentions, a solution (to the conflict) could be found."

Mr. Premadasa opened peace talks with the LTTE, the most powerful Tamil group in Sri Lanka, in April 1989 when the rebels were still waging a bush war against Indian troops deployed in the island. The Colombo-LTTE talks were shattered by the fresh conflict.

Communique Updates Situation 30 Jun

BK3006114590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jun 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan security forces continued their offensive on the LTTE terrorists. They further consolidated the positions held by them in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. According to a communique issued by the Information Department, security sources report that in the Eastern Province, the LTTE terrorists are fast retreating into the jungles to regroup later and engage themselves in guerrilla warfare. Their supply lines have been disrupted. Their armed cadres, especially in their teens, have deserted, leaving the much talked about military machinery in total disarray. The tendency among the LTTE leadership in the Batticaloa and Amparai Districts to send the lower ranks to battle with the security forces is said to be causing dissension and disintegration of the organization.

In (Tiandidi) and Pottuvil, the security forces encountered a group of fleeing terrorists and in the ensuing gun battle, eight terrorists died and a large number were injured. In a cordon and search operation at Sinnavadi, security forces recovered a substantial stock of arms and ammunition and food supplies which had been collected for a long-drawn out battle with the security forces.

In Trincomalee District in Uppuveli, security forces found a mass grave containing 14 bodies of policemen in a highly decomposed state. With the help of identity cards and numerals found on the bodies of these policemen, they have been identified as those who served in the Uppuveli police station and (Maratali) police post. They are said to be a (?section) of the policemen who surrendered to the terrorists on the 13th of this month.

The inspector general of police, Ernest Perera, said that there are still more than 600 policemen who are missing and whose whereabouts are not known. He said he is intrigued by the fact that no human rights organization has so far appealed to the LTTE terrorists not to kill the policemen who surrendered. He was surprised by the fact that the charge of genocide is not made on the LTTE terrorists by the various vested interests.

At Tampalagaman in the Trincomalee District, four terrorists died in an encounter with the security forces. At (Ichchlapattu), the security forces killed six LTTE terrorists in an ambush. They have now cleared the Nilaveli and Sambaltivu areas and further consolidated their positions.

In the Northern Province, troops are operating mainly in the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts. In both districts, operations have been restricted by the high intensity of mines, booby traps, and explosive devices. Several soldiers and innocent civilians have been injured by these explosive devices. The intensive care unit of the Anuradhapura Hospital has been strengthened to cater to the emergency cases from these two districts.

At (Thandikulam), north of Vavuniya, in a fierce battle with the LTTE, two soldiers died and one officer and 13 soldiers were injured. Thirteen LTTE terrorists died in this encounter.

Rebel, Government Casualties Reported

BK0107125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 15 LTTE men and one Army soldier were reported killed in a fierce encounter in Modaragam Aru and Pallakuli area in Mannar District. Twenty-seven soldiers and several LTTE militants also sustained injuries during the conflict. The government troops have captured many LTTE bunkers in the area.

According to official reports from Colombo, heavy fighting still continues in several areas in the northeast. In Jaffna Fort, the besieged security forces continued to face mortar and rocket attacks from the LTTE.

Our Colombo correspondent, Karuppusamy, reports that this is the longest siege of its kind in the recent history of Sri Lanka. The militants have foiled Colombo's repeated attempt to evacuate the wounded and airdrop food and ammunition into the fort.

Situation in Northeast Updated 1 Jul

BK0107132890 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 1 Jul 90

[Text] No major encounters were reported between the security forces and the LTTE terrorists in the Northern and Eastern Provinces during the last 24 hours ending 1200 noon today. However, according to a communique issued by the Information Department, security forces moving northwest from Puttalam came under heavy resistance from the LTTE terrorists at Modiragama Aru and Pallakuli. The security forces lost one soldier, and 27 others, including an officer, were injured. Fifteen LTTE terrorists were killed in action and a large number of them injured. The security forces intensified their clearing and cordon and search operation in the Amparai, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya Districts. In this operation, they recovered a large quantity of anti-personnel mines, hand grenades, (?tents), office equipment, maps showing LTTE training camps in India and Sri Lanka, and a large quantity of food stuff. In Talaimannar, before the terrorists [word indistinct] the food stocks in one of the hideouts had been poisoned. The security forces destroyed the stock to prevent innocent civilians from consuming this food.

LTTE Alleges Napalm Bombing

BK0207053490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0506 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 2 (AFP)—Sri Lankan forces have dropped napalm in Tamil areas, causing death and widespread devastation, Tamil guerrillas charged Monday [2 July]. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement received here from London that northern Killinochchi District came under "massive aerial bombardment" from the Sri Lankan Air Force Sunday [1 July]. The statement also charged that the Sri Lankan Navy shelled an unknown number of boats carrying Tamil refugees fleeing eastern Trincomalee District and killed about 40 of them. It did not say when the killings took place.

The Air Force dropped napalm bombs on Tharmapuram, in the farming villages of Thirunagar and Kanagapuram, and around Paranthan town from 8 a.m. (0230 GMT), burning to death one Tamil civilian, the statement said. It said several houses, a Protestant church, a garage and government food stores were set on fire and either destroyed or severely damaged in the region, which lies south of the rebel stronghold of Jaffna Peninsula.

"These planes then went on to drop napalm bombs on the extensive forest in Murugandy in Killinochchi District. This tinder-dry forest is now burning," the statement added.

The Sri Lankan Government has denied using napalm in its battle against Tamil guerrillas.

But by dismissing the LTTE charges as "ridiculous propaganda," the statement said the government was "silencing world opinion and burying beneath the sand the most horrific acts of violence against the human race." The LTTE did not say how long the bombings continued.

On the naval bombardment of the boats, the statement did not say if the refugees were escaping to India, where a few hundred Sri Lankan Tamils have taken refugee since fighting erupted between the LTTE and government forces on June 11 in the island's northeast. "Ironically, these refugees were fleeing from the coastal areas off Pulmoddai in Trincomalee for fear of being killed by the land-based Sri Lankan soldiers," it said.

According to official and unofficial sources, nearly 1,200 people have been killed and at least half a million displaced since the powerful LTTE renewed its bloody separatist campaign after a year of peace talks with Colombo.

Government Said 'Ready for Talks'

BK0207124490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT 2 Jul 90

[Text] Colombo, July 2 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's three-week-old military offensive against Tamil separatist guerrillas was an all-out fight aimed at crushing terrorism in the island, a senior minister said here Monday [2 July]. But the government was at the same time ready for talks with the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE) if it agreed to lay down weapons, Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters.

"It is a fight to the finish. The winner takes the lot," Mr. Wijeratne said, referring to the fighting since June 11 between security forces and the Tigers, who are seeking an independent Tamil homeland called Eelam.

"They are finished. The end of the road has come for them," Mr. Wijeratne said, speaking with evident scorn for the LTTE, with which the government held peace talks for some 14 months starting in April 1989. But he said Colombo was willing to resume discussions with the Tigers if they would agree to lay down arms—something the LTTE has repeatedly refused—and to an evacuation of wounded soldiers from the besieged Jaffna Fort. Seventeen of 201 soldiers and policemen holed up inside the 17th century Dutch-built fort since June 11 have been wounded and need evacuation, Mr. Wijeratne said, correcting his own previous higher figures of the trapped men.

"If they are keen on discussions, let them show mercy on the 17," Mr. Wijeratne said, adding that this had been conveyed to a Tamil party known to be close to the LTTE.

"(But) there is no question of a cease-fire," he said. "We have said very clearly that they should lay down their arms ... How can I agree to a ceasefire and face my soldiers?" he asked.

Asked if this meant Colombo would talk and fight simultaneously, Mr. Wijeratne replied, "Why not?"

The LTTE has virtually ringed the fort, on the outskirts of the militant stronghold of Jaffna town, and has prevented helicopters from dropping adequate quantities of food and weapons to the men inside.

Mr. Wijeratne said government troops were on top in the island's Eastern Province, and fighting their way up in the northern region against the LTTE, which was founded in 1976 and has hundreds of fighters under arms. He said the objective of the anti-LTTE campaign "to put down terrorism and to restore democracy" in the Tamil-majority northeastern region, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority. He said "mopping up operations" against the Tigers should be over in the east within a week or 10 days, and that the government would speed up its operations in the north.

Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunga said government forces had suffered 318 dead at the hands of the LTTE from June 13 to July 1. The death toll among the security forces between 1983 and 1987 was 900. Among the 318 killed were 157 Army soldiers, three Air Force personnel and 158 policemen, he said. Mr. Ranatunga placed the Tigers losses at 300 or more.

But official and unofficial sources put the death toll at nearly 1,200, including a large number of non-combatants. The government has not given any precise casualty figure for civilians.